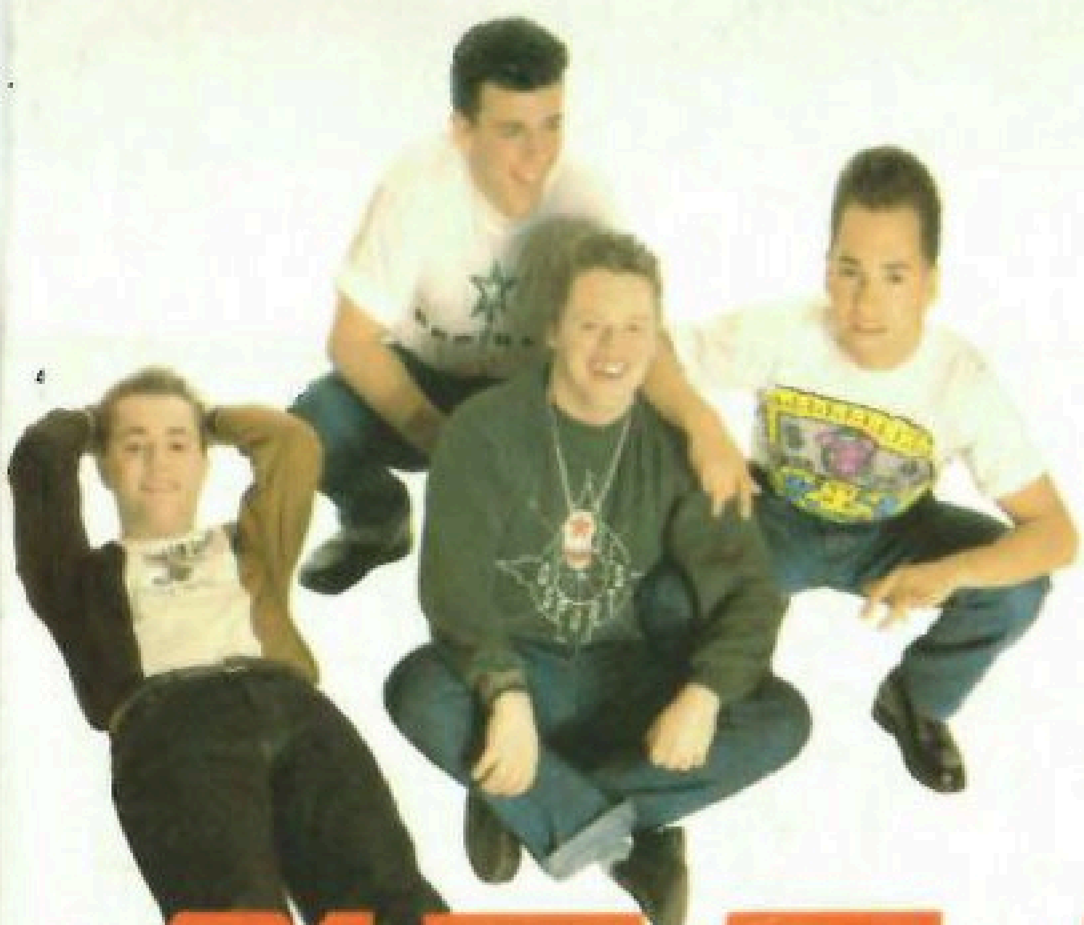
Super... Smashing... Marvellous... Grand!



THE 1989 SMASH HITS



STICKER COLLECTION







PANINI

Welcome to...

THE 1989 SMASH HITS STICKER COLLECTION

Goodness. What remarkable things stickers are! Why, there's no limit to their worthiness. And in this, the **Smash Hits 6th Sticker Collection,** there's 120 exceptionally smashing stickers depicting pop stars of the very highest calibre for you, the viewer, to collect.

How to collect your stickers

It's not very difficult at all really. They come in handy packets of five and can be purchased from most newsagents for 25p a "throw". And, of course, there's hours of fun to be had swopping "doubles" with fellow sticker enthusiasts. And if, at the end of the day, you still have a few irritating spaces left to fill, you can order up to 12 stickers of your choice direct from Panini (see details on the inside back cover) and before long you'll have completed your album and will be queen "bee" amongst your pals and peers!

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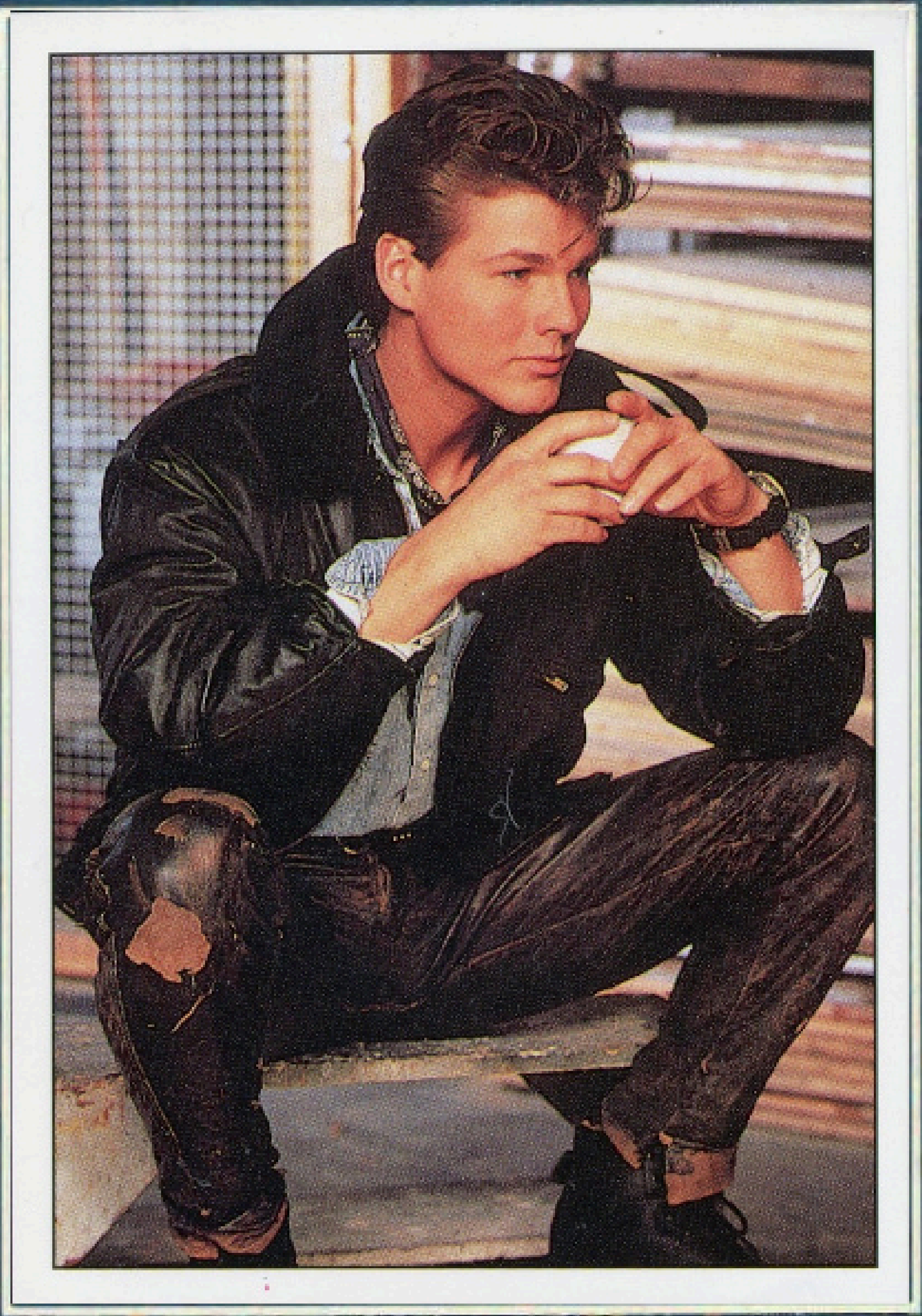
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Simply place a tick in the handy box provided as you get each sticker. That way you can see how well you're doing and which stickers you still need. And before you know it Bob will be your "uncle".



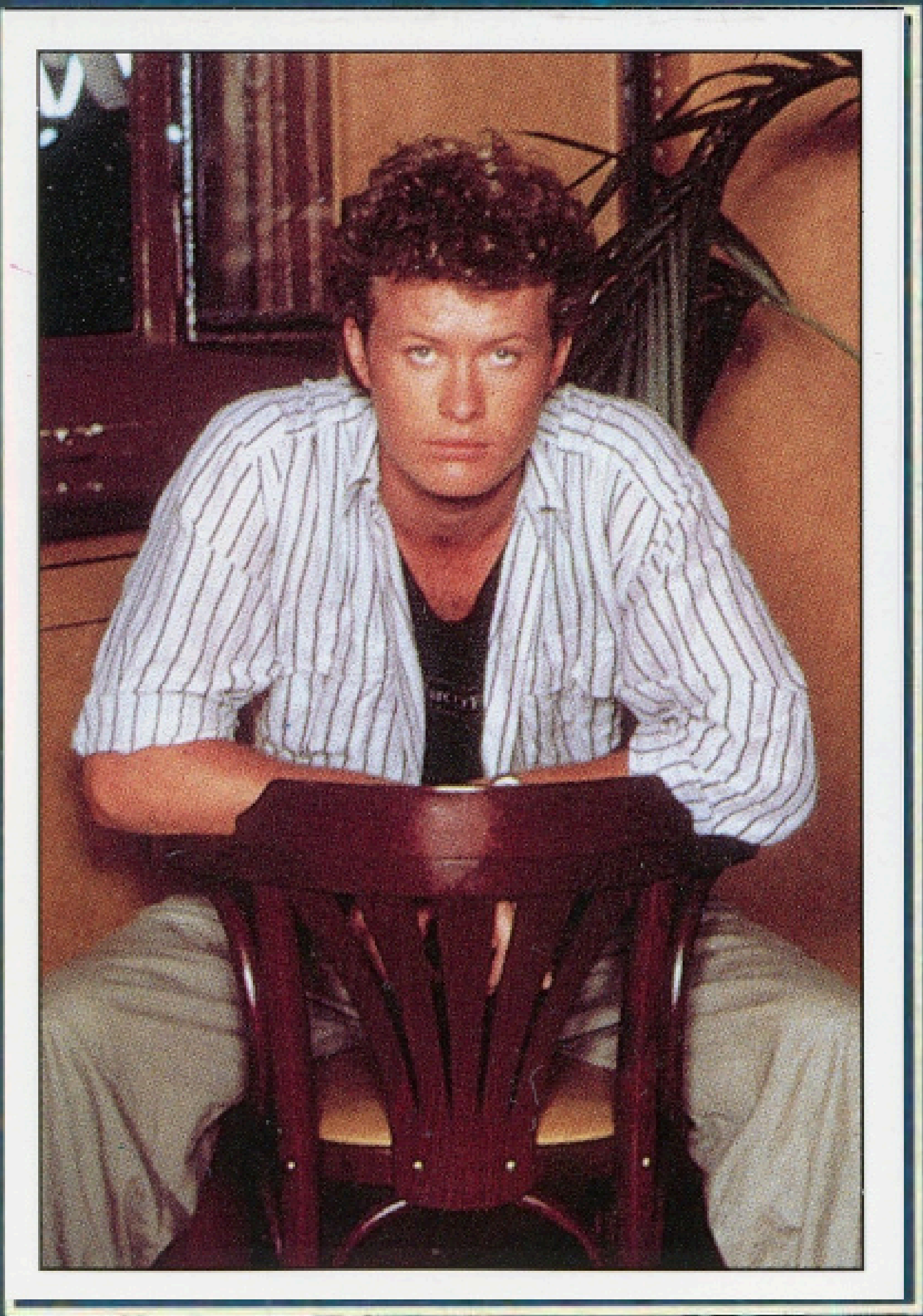
Photo: Iain McKell

MORTEN



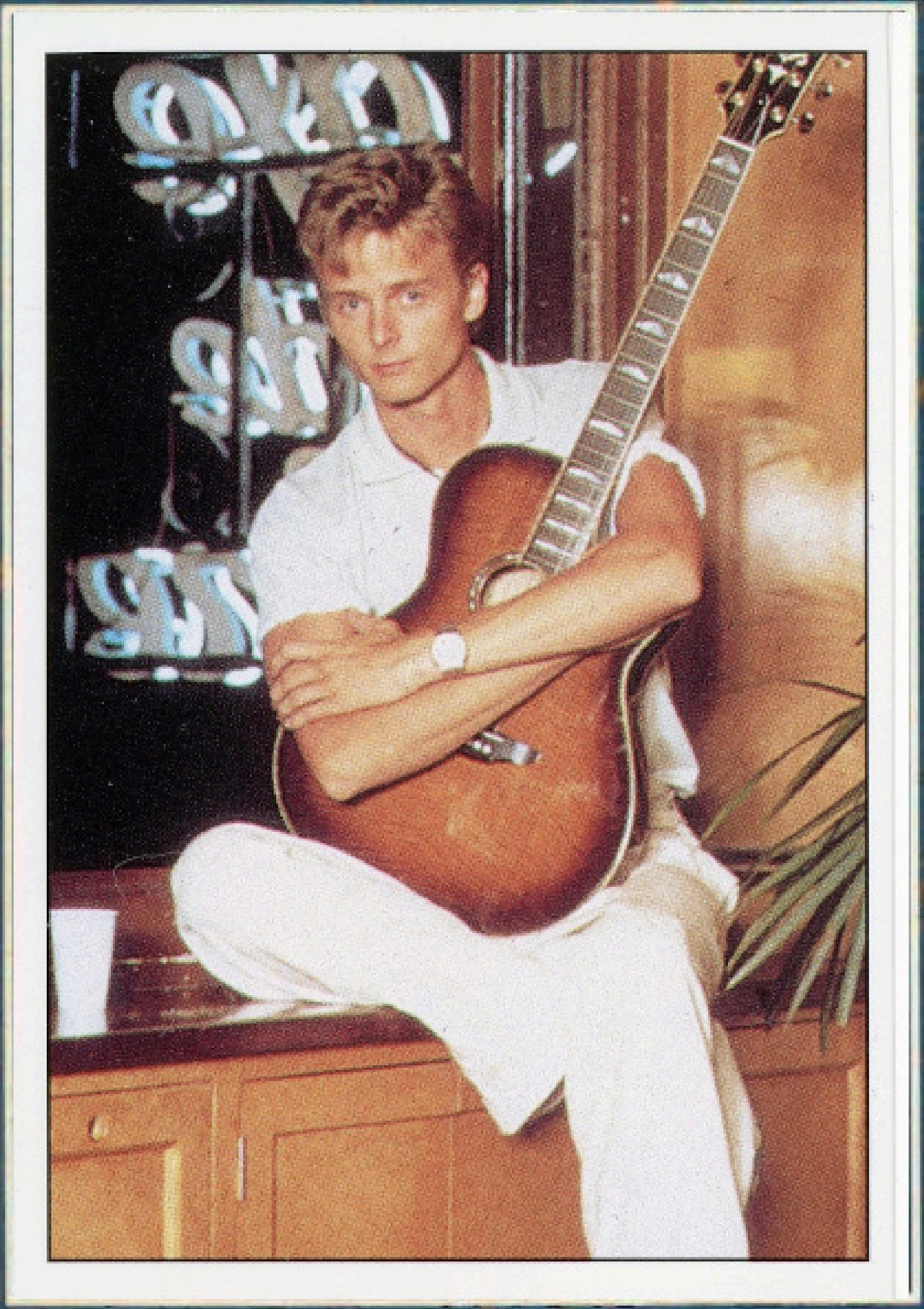
Born in Norway on 14/9/1959 **Morten Harket** spent his pre-pop star years tending his beloved orchids, working (with Mags) in a mental hospital, studying theology and singing in various groups called things like Mercy, Laelia Anceps and Souldier Blue. He was as pleased as punch when Mags and Pål invited him to join their group because he'd always been a fan of their previous group, Bridges. When he's not working with A-ha, Morten is involved in a spook "ecological" project with some professor bloke in Norway which he refuses to reveal more about "until it happens".

MAGS

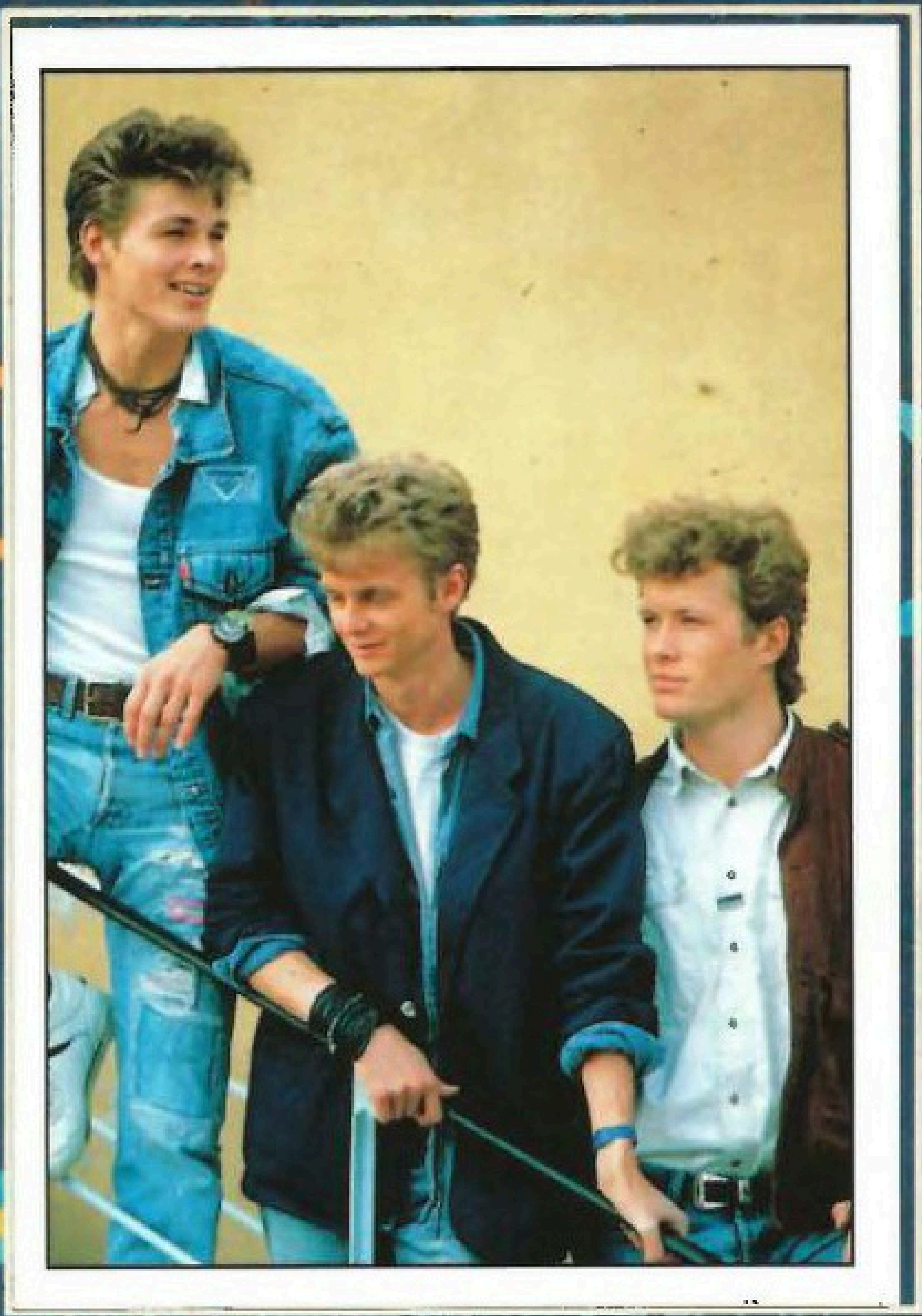


Born in Norway 1/11/1962, **Mags** (real name Magne) **Furuholmen** is the larkster in A-ha, famous for his onstage skate-boarding antics and fondness for talking nonsense in interviews. He has his serious side too – he nearly left the group early on to go to art school and, like Morten and Pål, he's interested in solar energy and concerned about ecology. Mags lives in London and has been going out with his girlfriend Heidi for donkey's years.

PAL



Born 6/9/1961 in Norway, **Pål** (pronounced "Paul") **Waaktaar** is not only the quietest and shyest member of A-ha but also the chief musical genius in the group (i.e. he writes most of the songs). His first ever tune was composed on a flute and had a Norwegian title which meant "Singing My Song About The Wind". He's known Mags ever since he was 10 years old when they started living next door to each other and they played together in a group called Spider Empire and then one called Bridges (who actually made two LPs).
Pål spends most of his spare time in New York with his American girlfriend Lauren.



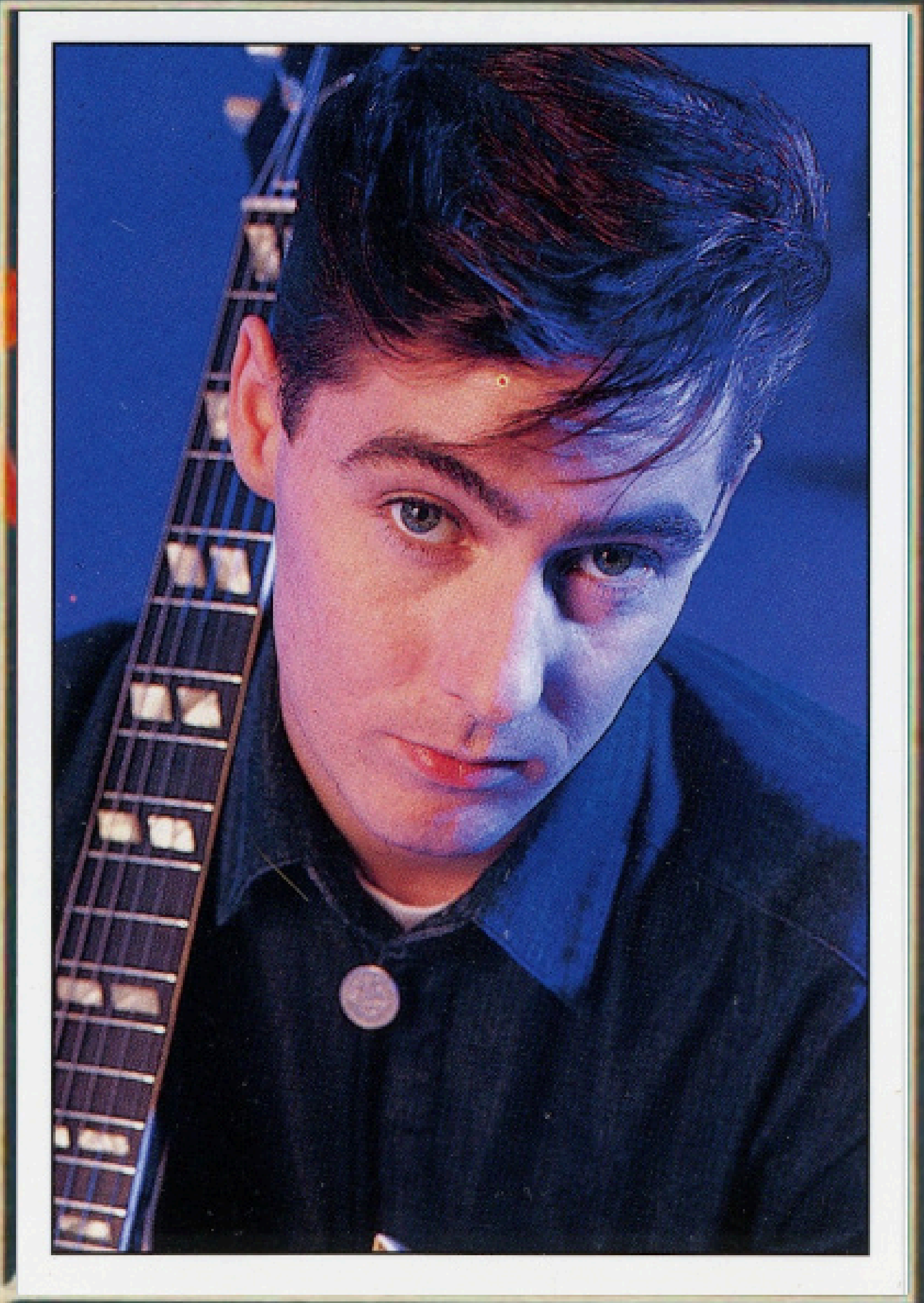
▲ A-ha, L-R: Morten, Pal and Mags.

What lucky blighters **A-ha** were in their sudden rise to the giddy heights of pop stardom. They dondered over from Norway and spent two penniless years in a dingy old flat in London, living on salt and pepper sandwiches and Pål's speciality "cabbage bread", trying to make it as pop stars. Their first single, "Take On Me" flopped dismally twice – *twice!* – and Morten, Mags and Pål decided to call it a day and go their separate ways. Then a bright "spark" at their record company decided to make a semi-animated video for the single and it instantly shot to No.1 all over the world! Thank goodness for that! Even though **Bros** may have stolen their "thunder" a bit these days in the girlie stakes, A-ha are still massively popular and are probably quite relieved that they're now being considered as "serious musicians" which is far more up their "street".

RICK ASTLEY



Born in the sprawling "metropolis" that is Newton-Le-Willows *(somewhere "oop North")*, **Rick Astley** spent his "salad days" collecting bottles and leaving the Cubs when they tried to force him to wear short trousers, before waking up one day and discovering that he was a drumming genius with a dodgy group called **Give Way**. Then he progressed to doing a bit of singing and blowing a "mean" saxophone with a slightly less dodgy combo called **FBI** who were duly spotted by **Lord Peter Waterman** who promptly whisked Rick down to London to dunk teabags in cups of hot water for the stars visiting **SAW**'s recording studio. Meanwhile, Rick began singing some tunes for Pete, one of which ("Never Gonna Give You Up") was released as a single and went to No. 1 for an aeon! *Smash Hits* then renamed him Dick Spatsley and he was thoroughly snubbed by a bunch of old duffers called **The Who** at the *B.P.I. Awards* because they wanted to play one of their boring old tunes when Rick was supposed to be getting his award! *Then* he was unthinkably "snubbed" again. This time by us – *The Hits!!* – at our *Poll Winners Party* last year when Rick stomped off in a gigantic huff after winning the award for *Worst Dressed Person (except it was all a load of guff made up by certain truthfree "news"-papers)*. What a toff!



AZTEC CAMERA

Many years ago in the 1970s a wee lad in East Kilbride called **Roddy Frame** used to dress up as Dame David Bowie and ask Santa Claus for guitar "amplifiers" because he thought he'd quite like to be a popular guitar hero. Then in the early 1980s he invented a "sensitive" guitar group called **Aztec Camera** because he was a bit mad. He's the unhealthiest man on the planet Earth and likes nothing better than scoffing scrummy "E" numbers. "They're the best thing ever invented," he yowls, "I mean, if you just sliced some potatoes really thin and fried them up in a pan they wouldn't taste as good as *Smokey Bacon*, would they?" Indeed not.



BANANARAMA

Bananarama have been going since 1979 when three girls who shared a rather disgusting London flat i.e. **Sarah Dallen, Keren Woodward** and **Siobhan Fahey**, decided it would be quite a lark to become an all-singing, all-dancing pop group. Even though for years they were something of a laughing stock for their uselessness in the singing and dancing departments, they've now clocked up an astonishing 17 – 17! – super pop hits and, since teaming up with ace tune inventors, **Stock, Aitken** and **Waterman**, have been massively famous and successful all over the globe too. Siobhan left the 'Rams in 1988 (after marrying **Dave Stewart** out of **Eurythmics** and producing a baby called **"Joseph"**), and has since launched a so-far miserably unsuccessful solo "career" under the name of **Shakespear's Sister**. She was replaced by an old drinking pal of Sarah and Keren's called **Jacqui O'Sullivan** who's equally useless at dancing.



▲ L-R: Sarah, Keren and Jacqui – le Bananarama

▼ The Beastie Boys, L-R: MCA, Ad-Rock and Mike D. Mmmm What dreamboats.



The Beastie Boys are three young "men" from Brooklyn, New York called **Adam Horowitz, Mike Diamond** and **Adam Youch** who were a bit soft, so they decided to give themselves "def" and "chillin'" names like **MCA** and **Mike D** and **Ad Rock.** It seems only a millisecond ago that they were tearing the pop world asunder with their raucous "riffs" like "Fight For Your Right To Party" and "No Sleep 'Til Brooklyn" and things. Then they came over to Britain and shocked grannies the nation over by spraying some beer over scantily-clad ladyfolk and complaining that the rocks on Brighton beach were too hard. Then they disappeared but now they're back! Yes! They plan to release their new album this year. Hurrah!

BEASTIE BOYS



▲ Tim Simenon, "Er, quite extraordinary!"

Beach balls are smashing
They bounce really high,
And their bright colours
Look super against the blue sky.
But **balloons** are even better –
They're great for flying fun,
Unless you're dead fat and heavy
In which case you won't get very
Far just ask Richard Branson
(haw haw)!!

BON JOVI

Bon Jovi are five blokes from New Jersey, all of whom were born to rock'n'roll. Their names are **Jon Bon Jovi** (singer, guitar wizard), **Richie Sambora** (chief guitar wizard), **Alec John Such** (bass spanker "extraordinaire"), **Dave Bryan** ("keyboards") and **Tico Torres** ("drums"). The group were formed after Jon made a "demo" of a tune called "Runaway" which became a bit of a local hit in New Jersey. Needing a group, because he couldn't possibly make all that racket by himself, he recruited the others from all his favourite New Jersey "bar bands" and off they went to take the world of rock'n'roll by storm with their tunesome, anthemic rock workouts such as "You Give Love A Bad Name", "Living On A Prayer", "Bad Medicine" and "Born To Be My Baby" and their magnificent live shows.





▲ Bon Jovi, L-R: David Bryan, Richie Sambora, Alec John Such, Jon Bon Jovi, Tico Torres.

JON BON JOVI

Jon Bon Jovi was born on 2/3/1962. His real name is **Jon Bongiovi** *("Bongiovi" means "good youth" in Italian)*. His dad is a hairdresser and his mum runs a flower shop. When Jon was a youngster he worked in a shoe shop (where he was sacked for singing along when Bruce Springsteen came on the radio) and as a floor sweeper in a recording studio. Then he decided it would be much more fun being The King Of Rock'n'Roll instead so he invented Bon Jovi. Despite being blessed with ravishing good looks, Jon is a reluctant "hearthrob": "I don't want to be too cool for school," he once said.(?) Jon has been going out with his girlfriend Dorothea ever since he was at school even though he pretends to be "unattached".

BOMB THE BASS

Tim Simenon is half Malaysian-Chinese and half Scottish and he spent his formative years poking in the back of radios wondering where the sound came from. He soon "guessed" and became obsessed about "sound" (man) and went to college to become a sound engineer (and made a few bob as a bar "tender" in a Japanese restaurant on the "side"). There he invented a tune called "Beat Dis" for about 2p and – zerwong!! – it blimped straight up the chartways to No. 1 and he became instantly rich and famous and good-looking (a bit) even though he doesn't think he's a pop star ("I'm not a pop star!"). Now he has had many hit singles with many "guest" singers trilling over his amazing dance "mixes" and he's the first DJ to have gone on tour to "boot". He is famed for having eaten many edible spells when he was a bairn. "My gran used to write a charm on a little piece of rice paper to eat if I wasn't feeling well," but he doesn't put spells on his records. "My records don't sell because of *spells!* They sell because they'*re good!*".



◄ Breathe, L-R: David "Gasper" Glasper, Marcus and Spike.

BREATHE

B

Breathe consist of David "Gasper" Glasper, Ian "Spike" Spice and Marcus Lillington who all went to the same school in Yateley, Surrey. Marcus and Spike have been pals since they were ten and formed several bands which, according to Spike, were "absolutely pathetic". Eventually, they spotted David singing in the school play *The Boyfriend*, immediately recruited him and formed Breathe! After six years in the dumper, their seventh single "Hands To Heaven" spiralled to No. 2 in America and within weeks – weeks! – they were "enjoying" chart "action" over here. But their troubles weren't over yet. No sooner had they reaped the "fruits" of their success than Spike and David's flat was completely ransacked by some unsavoury burglar types and now they're possession-free once again. Still, David reckons the future holds, "ultimate superstardom, megalomania and madness". So that's all right then.



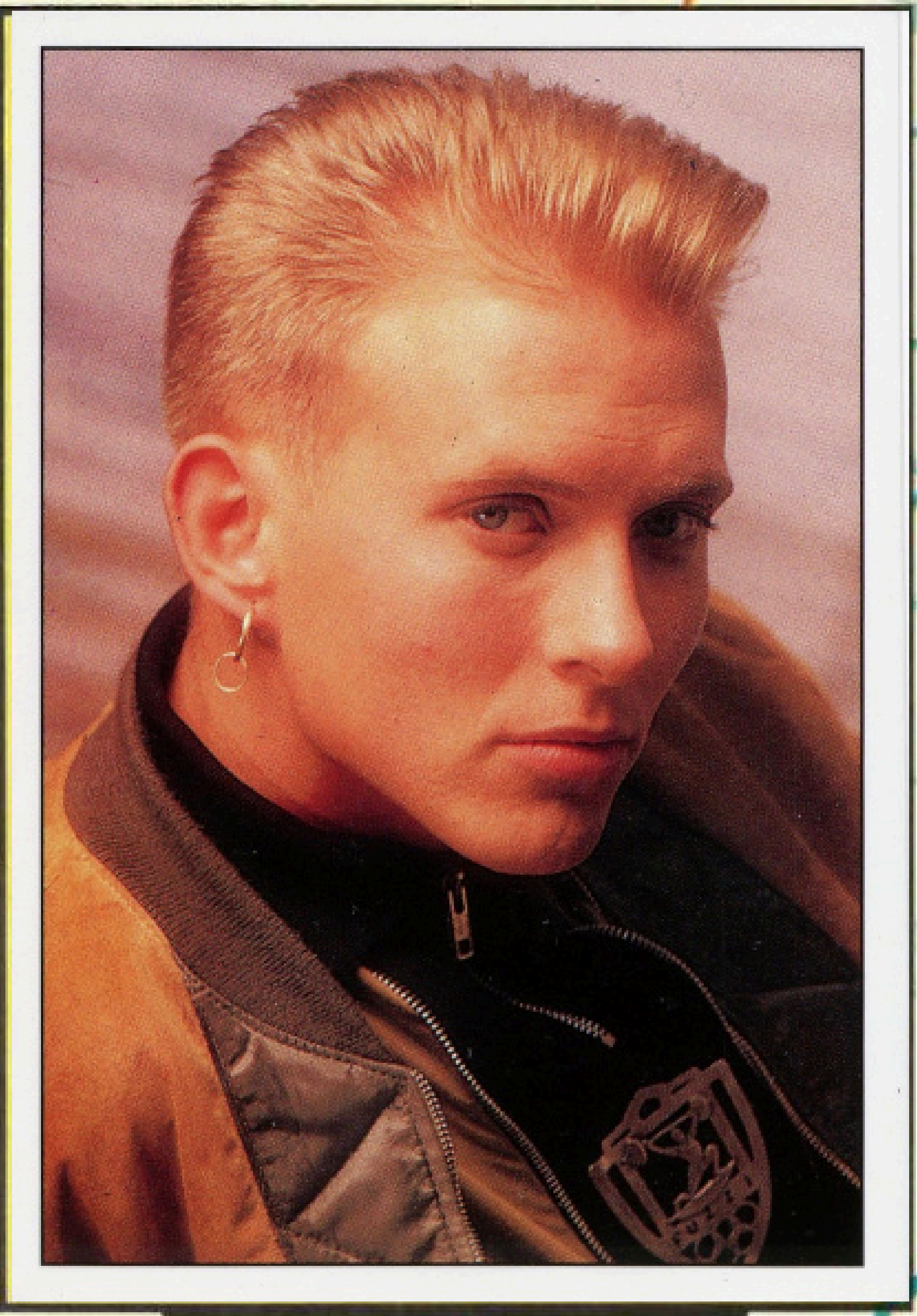
▲ The Bros Boys, L-R: Luke, Matt and Craig.

BROS

At the "tender" age of 12, two twin geezers called **Matt and Luke Goss** decided they'd quite like to be very rich and famous and have gorgeous girlies drooling over them so they invented a band called **Caviar** (pthrtht!) and invited their school chum **Craig** (who they met when he sponged 50p off them in the dinner queue one day) to join and they made lots of pop tunes that weren't very good. "We weren't very good," they trill truthfully. Then they decided Caviar was a useless name (true), changed it to **Bros** because they love each other like brothers (and, indeed, two of them are!) and they suddenly got better and invented a tune called "I Owe You Nothing" which spiralled into…er, oblivion. Then they invented another tune called "When Will I Be Famous" which spiralled into…the super hit parade!! All the universe decided they were entirely "wicked" etc. and voted them *Best Band* in the *1988 Smash Hits Readers Poll!* And now they want to become the new U2 (or something). "U2 are, like, the biggest band in the world from Ireland," froths Matt. "Well, we'd like to become the biggest band in the world from England. To become a supergroup, if you like…" We shall see…

MORE BROS OVER





MATT GOSS

At the age of five Matt did a mean impression of his ultimate hero, **Michael Jackson**, and he is "very proud" of his whisperish voice to this day. Not even the fact that Luke biffed him off a stool when he was five and the hapless youngster split his forehead open could thwart his life-long ambition to become a "legendary" pop singer. "Well, being a legend's better than *not* being a legend, innit?" he once quipped "mysteriously". He's the "sensitive" member of Bros and he's always blubbing. "People are always saying I'm sensitive and moody and sentimental but that's not so abnormal, is it? I'm a human being after all!"

LUKE GOSS

Luke began playing drums when he was a nipper and thinks people like **Phil Collins** are really "wicked". He had his ears pinned back when he was 12 ("My ears were the way people could tell me and Matt apart – 'Luke's the one with the sticky-out ears' they'd say. I just got sick of it.") and he's a fitness "freak" who eats three packets of *Orbit* sugar-free "gum" every day. He is not a fan of the "popular" press who are always going on about his pervings and "love-nests" with his girlfriend Shirley Lewis. Now that Bros have "conquered" the world, Luke would like to be loved by Martians.(?) "I'd like us to be the first band in space, that'd be a grin..."

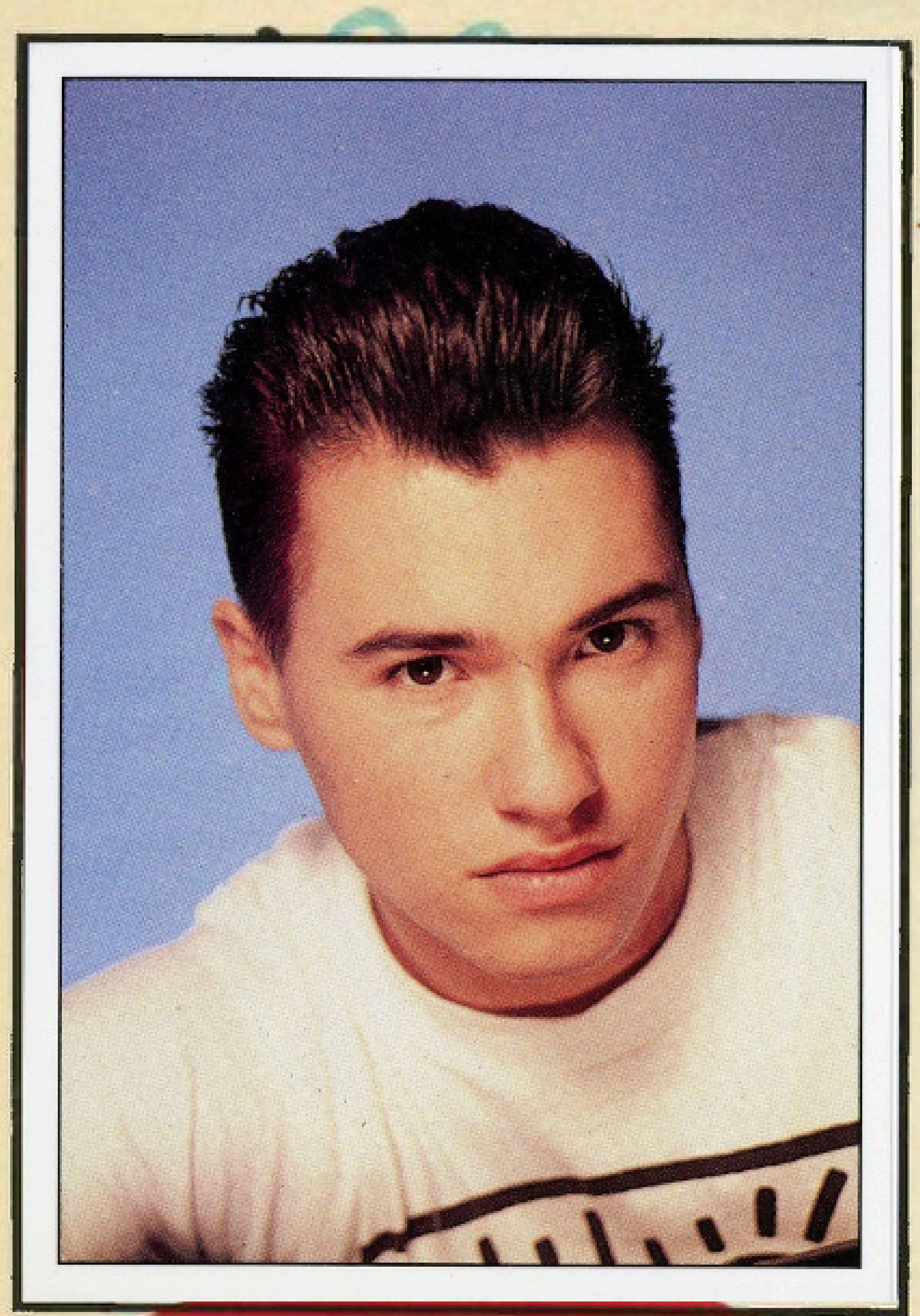




CRAIG LOGAN

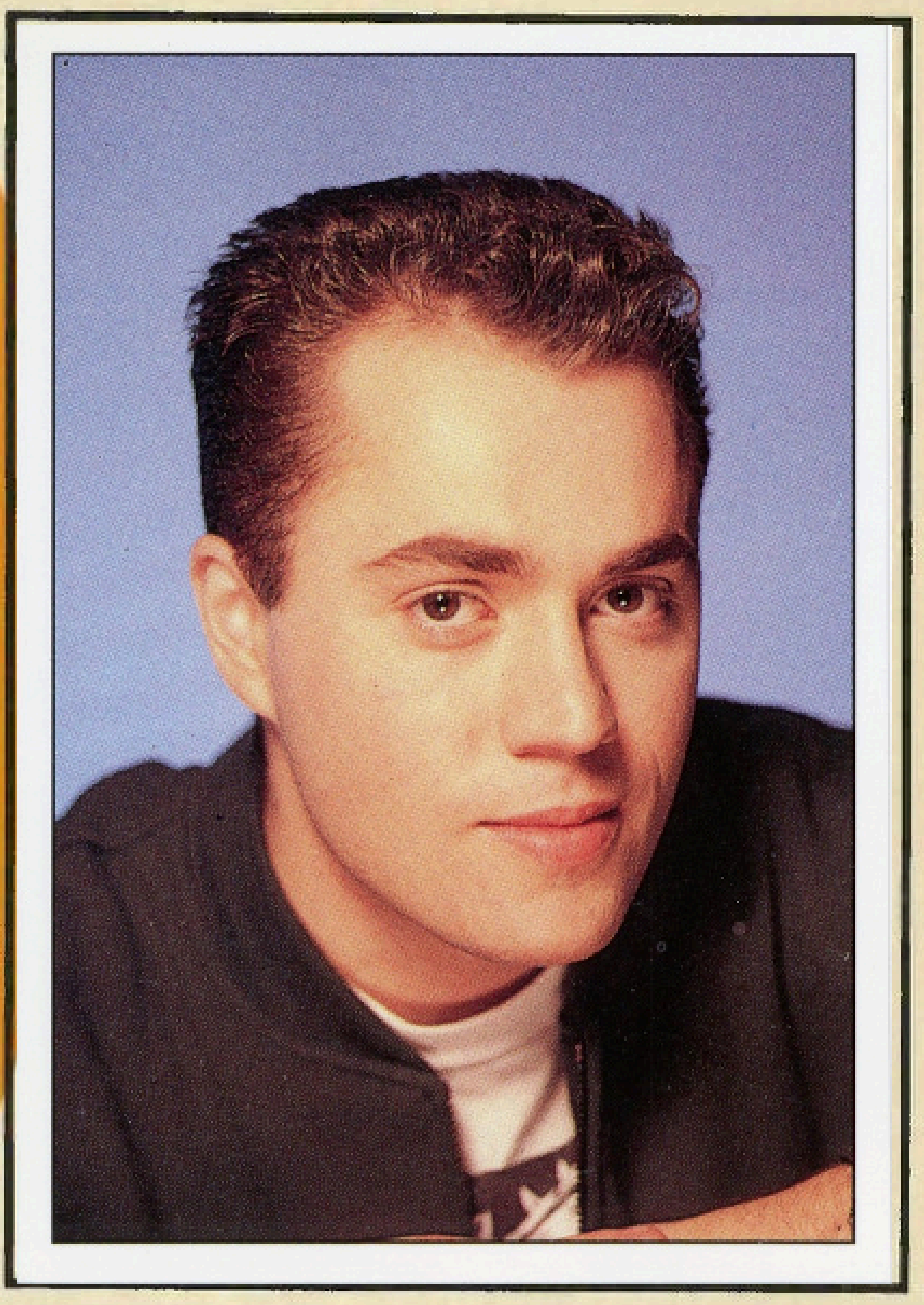
Craig was born in Kircaldy in Scotland though he remembers nothing of this except wearing a fur coat when he was a nipper (the jessie) because he left for England when he was seven. He then became a bit of a heavy metal "mutha" with dubious long hair until he was swirled into the world of pop bass spuggin'. He has gigantic feet (size 9), is often to be seen with a smirk upon his gills, rumbles on a lot about the importance of the Bros live experience, loathes brussels sprouts, and has a chocolate obsession (which might account for his dicey complexion). "Pthrtht! I had lovely clear skin until I met these two! And now I've got boils."

Oh! Bees go "buzz" and make nice honey,
And sometimes sting which isn't funny,
They dress in black and yellow because you see,
They think they play for Watford FC!



DAVID WHITE

David plays guitar and was born on 2/6/65 in North London. He went to boarding school and after he left he worked for a record company as a talent scout. Dame David's interesting hobbies include stone collecting. "I'd travel around beaches collecting stones, or go to stone shops and spend all my pocket money on them. I've probably got about 400 now." Mmmmmm! He's the only member of the 'Yond to own a hairy chest! "I'd probably like a bit more hair on my head though," he says. "I'm definitely displaying some Bruce Willis-style receding symptoms..."



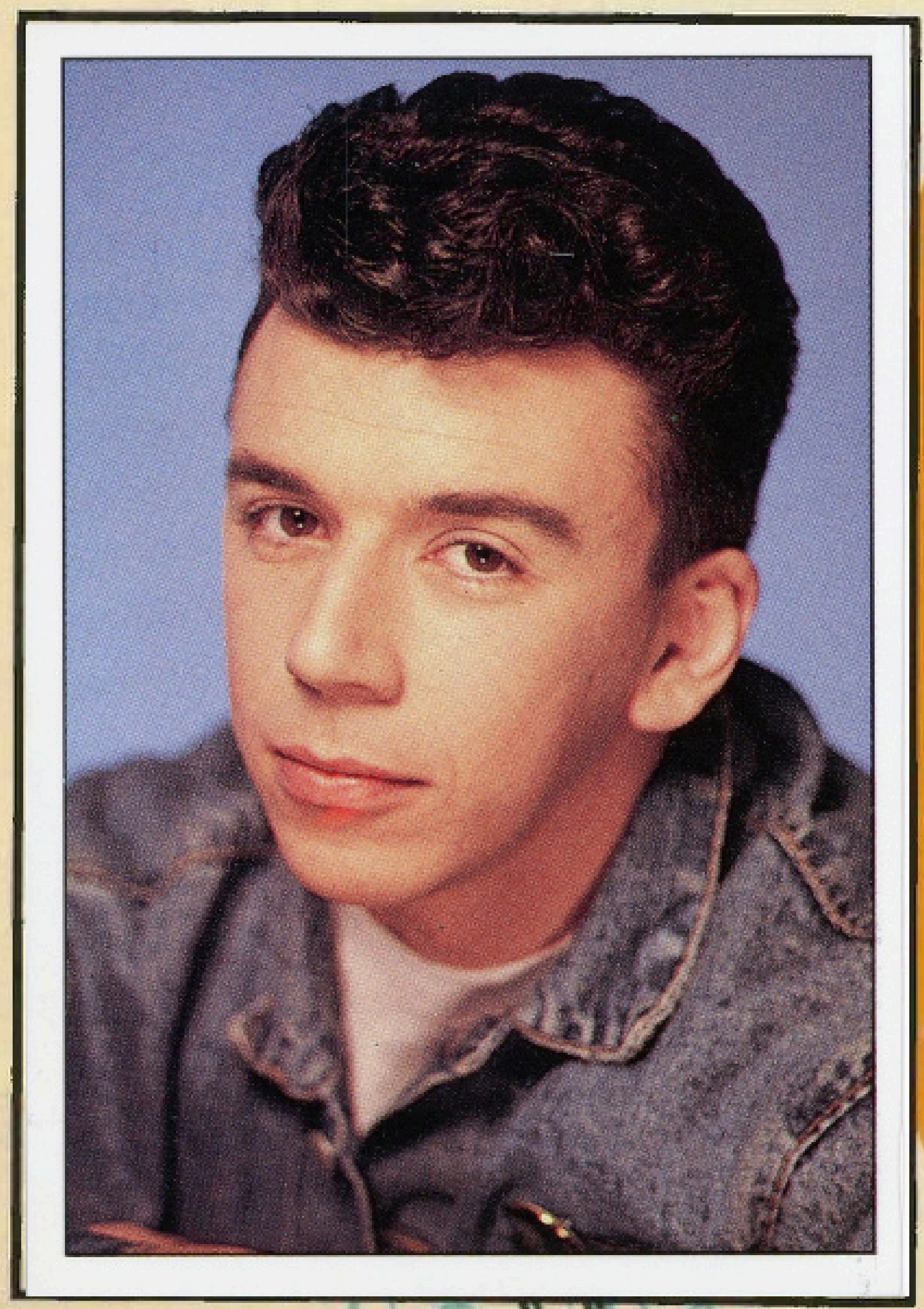
NATHAN MOORE

Nathan was going to be named Cassius after Cassius Clay, the boxer. "But my mum didn't go for that, thank God!" he pipes. Nathan was born on 10/1/65 in North London. After leaving school with four 'O' Levels he became a skivvy "runner" for a film company. His first stab at fame and fortune was with his sister in a group called **The Palmtree Club**,who were quite "visually entertaining" (i.e. they couldn't sing and looked abysmal) and Nathan sported some rather "visual" clobber at the time too. "I used to wear a sack poncho with sandals, frilly pleated trousers and a multicoloured scarf," he once admitted.

Yes! These, then, are the four "youths" who the entire cosmiverse (or thereabouts) now knows to be the 'Yond! But, believe it not, there was a time when they hadn't had so much as a sniff of chart action and absolutely nobody wished to interfere with their nethers in the slightest! Indeed, their path to fame was a perilous one, the story of which is told in glorious technicolor on the very next page of this worthy publication...

CARL FYSH

Carl was born in Oxfordshire on 25/1/63 – exactly the same day as the Scottish "bard" Robert Burns in fact! (Except a couple of centuries or so later). When he was a mere toddler he and his brother crawled into his dad's car, let the handbrake off and nearly died in the ensuing crash! Then he was expelled from school after dyeing his hair blue. "My religious education teacher called me 'The Son Of The Devil'!" he quips. Furthermore, he attempted to drown the occupants of his town! "We set two bins on fire and floated them down the river and they set a lock on fire," he says.



STEVE ALEXANDER

Steve was born in a place called Usystrad-gynlais *(in Wales, naturally)* on 20/11/62. He's got 12 – 12!! – 'O' Levels "including", he says, "one in Greek and Roman Literature!". And he was such a schoolboy prankster he even glued his Maths teacher's feet to the floor. He's also prone to going to the toilet on people's doorsteps sometimes. "I was very drunk one night and I just thought it would be hilarious to pee through someone's letterbox," he guffaws. "And I did! And I laughed all the way home! Hahah!" (NB: This is a criminal offence and should *not* be attempted by readers of this magnificent tome.) Before Steve joined the 'Yond he drummed with Sam Fox, Taylor Dayne and Tiffany.



BROTHER BEYOND

. . . THE STORY SO FAR

Once upon a time the 'Yond were thoroughly unfamous. Try as they might, *every* last one of their first four singles "stiffed" badly (except in Italy, where there was much touching of their bottoms and they were called Brother Behind!). But then, in the summer of 1988, they employed **Stock Aitken & Water"man"** to write and produce a pop tune called "The Harder I Try" and – pherooo!! – they were instantly hurtled from obscurity to the top of the entertainment "tree"!! The 'Yond's original line-up had included **Eg White** (David's brother) who played bass and owned an oddly shaped nose and didn't really look very much like a pop star anyway. But he dramatically quit the band just before they hit the "big" time. Instead, the Cheeriest Man In Pop, **Steve Alexander**, was "drafted" in and the 'Yond proceeded to conquer the world. And then, in 1988, the ultimate honour of honours was bestowed upon them – they won the *Smash Hits Readers' Poll Award* for *Most Promising New Act*!! Hurrah!



▲ The 'Yond, L-R: David White, Steve Alexander, Nathan "Marcellus" Moore, Carl Fysh.

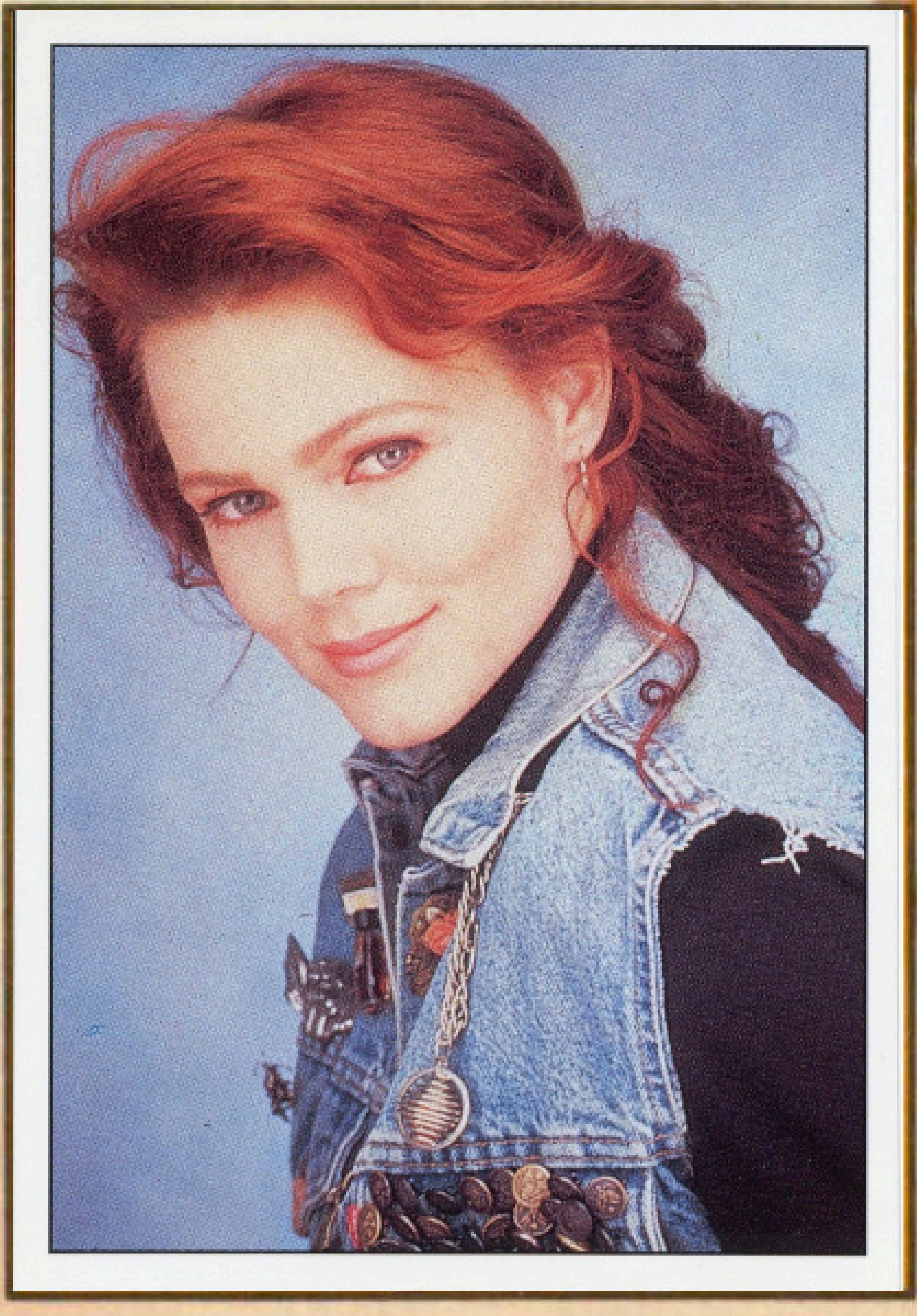
BUBBLES



Bubbles was snatched by **Michael Jackson** from the "jaws" of the animal welfare centre after soaring to fame as a film actor in the 1985 comedy *Back To School*. Mike whisked him to his pad in Encino, California where Bubbles has lived the proverbial "life of Riley" ever since . . . swanking about in *extremely* expensive gear (Mike reportedly spending £400 on Bubbles' jeans, pyjamas and a dinnersuit in one "spree"), beating time to Michael's super pop ditties (it only took him two years to learn how), and refining his various accomplishments, i.e. smiling, rollerskating, horseriding and, *naturellement*, moonwalking. Bubbles . . . he's a chimp!

BELINDA CARLISLE

Belinda was the lead singer of the **Go-Go's**, an American all-girl group who, despite huge success in the "U" "S", flopped rather desperately over here. It wasn't until Belinda struck out on her tod that she had a UK hit – "Heaven Is A Place On Earth" – at the beginning of 1988. Other classics of the American "rock" type followed such as "I Get Weak", "Circle In The Sand" and "World Without You". Belinda's other "attributes" include being a one time so-called agony aunt and living in famous actress **Carol Lombard's old house** in Hollywood. Belinda hates cleaning up dog "do", sensible drivers and white stilettos and once said: "The smell of beetroot makes me want to throw up."



Broccoli and carrots are packed with Vitamin C,
And iron and nutrients so good for you and me,
It's a pity their taste just makes you cry "Blee!
It's whopping great cream cakes
And chocolate sarnies
And hot buttered toast for me!"

TRACY CHAPMAN

As a toddler **Tracy Chapman** wasn't very "hip" at all. Living in the not very picturesque city of Cleveland, Ohio, she spent her time "looking at the sky, making pictures out of the clouds" and playing the guitar. "None of my friends were into it but I really loved the instrument," she once said. But how the tides do turn! For practically the entire world and his wife bought her magical debut album "Tracy Chapman" (hence the name) and blubbed along to her singles, "Talkin' 'Bout A Revolution" and "Fast Car" and now she's very "hip" indeed. So there!

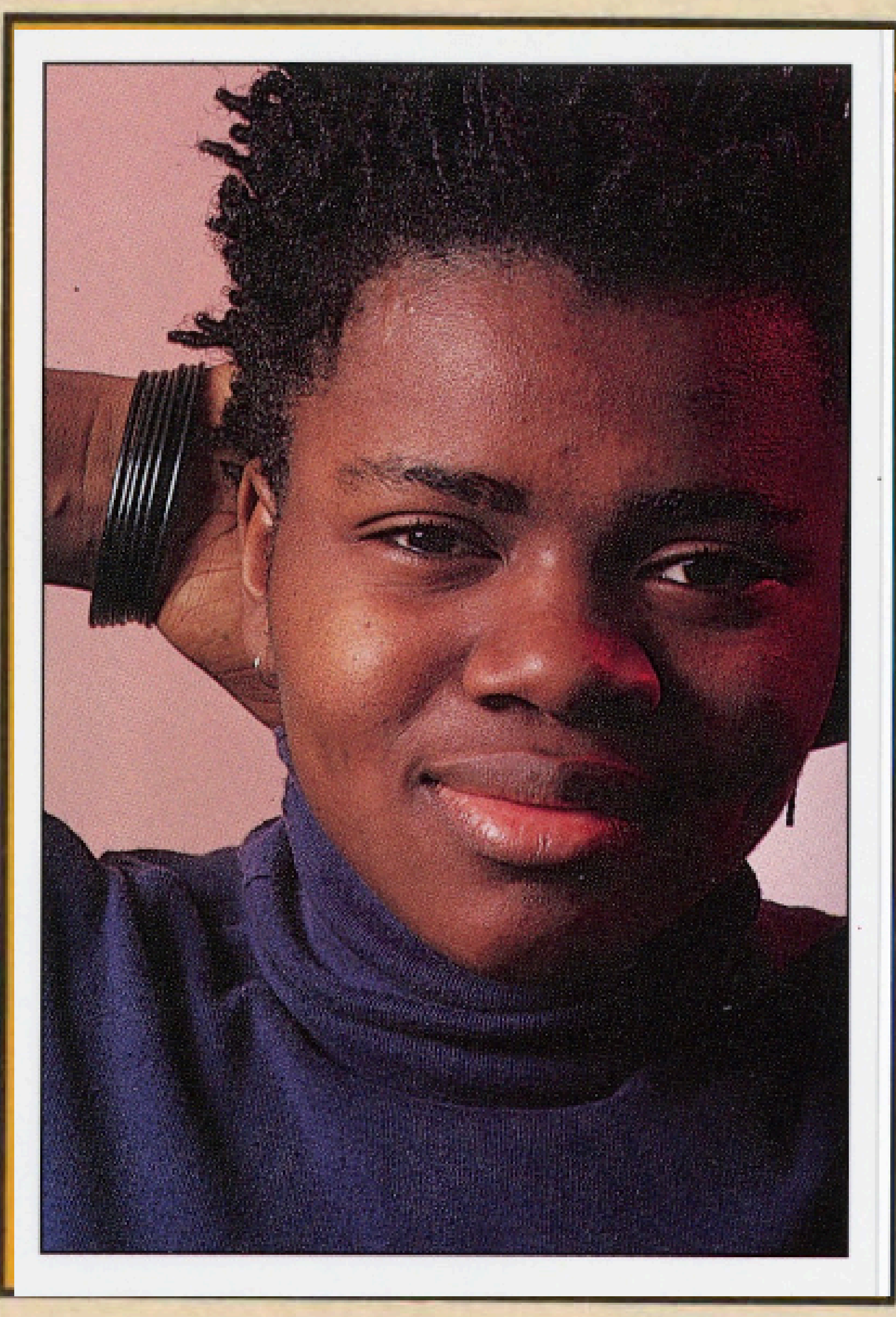




Photo: Andy Catlin



NENEH CHERRY

Neneh was born in Sweden, moved to New York when she was two, left school at 14, and was gainfully employed cleaning the floors in a fur coat factory until she came to Britain on holiday when she was 16 and ended up staying, "by accident". She was the singer in two bands called **Rip Rig And Panic** and **Float Up CP** *("trendy" outfits much adored by "hip" sorts).* Her first single "Buffalo Stance" was produced by **Tim Simenon** (he's a wizard), and it subsequently rampaged the bastions of popular music (or something). And apart from having mad cravings for raw egg shells, she's fairly sane.



▲ The Christians, L-R: Russell Christian, Gary "Baldie" Christian, Henry Priestman.

THE CHRISTIANS

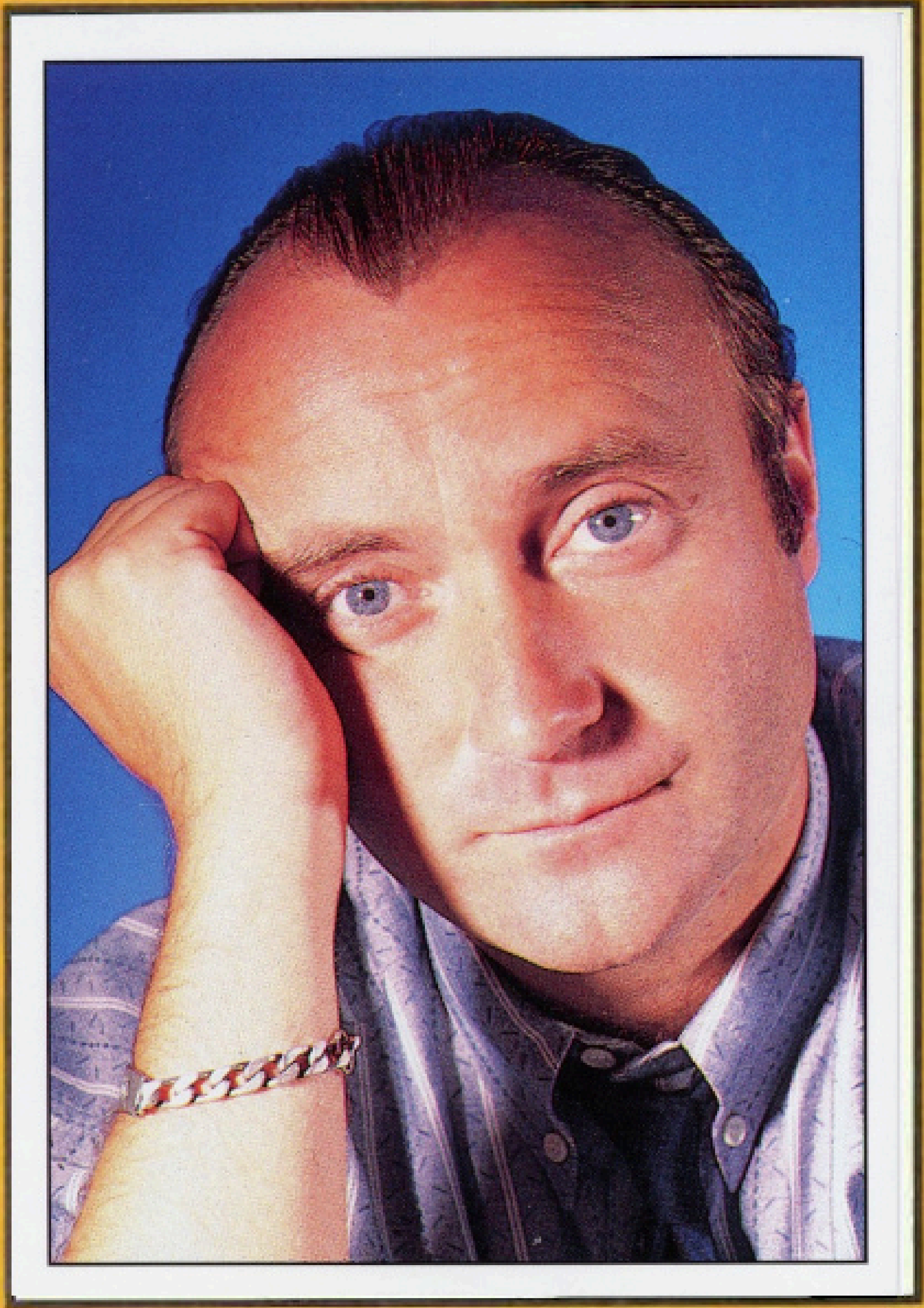
The Christians originally consisted of the Christian brothers (hence the name), **Roger, Russell and Garry,** who spent years traipsing around their home town of Liverpool singing in pokey old clubs and things. In 1985 they were joined by their chum who was called, spookily enough, **Henry Priestman**, and by 1987 they had doo-wopped and cooed their way to the summit of the hit "parade". However, at the height of their career Roger, who didn't really get on with his brothers at all, slung his hook forever. But the combo carried on in their "inimitable" way regardless of the fact that their new lead singer (i.e. Garry) had absolutely no hair to speak of whatsoever. Last November The Christians warmed the cockles of the nation by recording a version of the old **Isley Brothers**' tune "Ideal World" for charity which raised billions of bob for *The Disasters Emergency Committee.*

CLIMIE FISHER

Simon Climie and **Rob Fisher** (hence the name) were both brought up in the countryside looking at combine harvesters and chewing straw and "mucking out" the chicken "coop" etc. which is a cosmic coincidence, is it not? They both became failed song-writers for many years (except Simon was rather successful, writing songs for **Rod Steward** and **Pat Benetar** and a duet for **George Michael** and **Aretha Franklin**) until they met up and "penned" such marvellous wobblings as "Love Changes (Everything)", and they became very famous for wearing vests and having funny hair and baggy eyes and lots of "chicks" in their videos. Rob was once a sick sweeper-upper on Channel ferries. Simon once said: "I've got a corrugated head".

▼ Rob "roy" Fisher and Simon "Climie".





PHIL COLLINS

Phil is quite bald, due to him being approximately 100 years of age (i.e. 38). His conspicuous lack of flowing locks, however, has not in any way impaired his knack of penning the simpering lurve ballads that have made him such a favourite with a lot of people, including the Royal Family (*"I call him 'Sir' and he calls me 'Phil',"* *he has said of Prince Charles*). Phil is also a member of that popular "progressive rock" combo **Genesis**, is chums with almost every other pop star in the cosmos because he's so immensely approachable, and was "quite good" at pretending to be a criminal in the cinematic extravaganza that was *Buster*.

THE CURE



▲ The Cure, L-R: Robert Smith, Porl Thompson, Simon Gallup, Boris Williams, Roger O'Donnell, Laurence Tolhurst.

The Cure started life as a doom-ridden heavy punk band who rumbled along for several years being rather gloomy and obscure and not being very successful at all! Then, in 1983 they suddenly transformed themselves into a somewhat eccentric pop sensation and started having hits with songs such as "Love Cats", "The Caterpillar" and "Close To Me" where they went completely barmy and made a video in a wardrobe filled with water!! In 1987 they toured the world, made a hugely successful album called "**Kiss Me Kiss Me Kiss Me**" and promptly disappeared off the face of the Earth for almost the whole of 1988, emerging only briefly when their bonkers frontperson **Robert "Mad Bob" Smith** finally tied the "knot" with his childhood sweetheart Mary Poole. Aaaw...

CURIOSITY KILLED THE CAT

Julian Brookhouse, Nick Thorpe, Migi Drummond and **Ben Volpelière-Pierrot** were once quite famous! Indeed, they created quite a stir with their hit singles, "Down To Earth", "Misfit" and, erm, another one. They are mostly remembered for wearing their headgear backwards and dancing rather oddly and writing lyrics which didn't make very much sense i.e. "If we can't be free/Then we don't want to be we/Shubba dubba bab", and saying "man" a lot. And now they're going to be famous all over again because they're got a new album in the so-called "can".



▲ Curiosity Killed The Cat, L-R: Julian Brookhouse, Ben Volpeliere-Pierrot, Migi Drummond, Nick Thorpe.



CLARK DATCHLER

Born 27/3/1964 **Clark** spent his formative years attending a snooty public school where he was forced to polish the prefects' boots. He made his first record "You Fooled Him Once Again" when he was 16 but no-one bought it so he moved to LA to try his hand at being a professional songwriter. This wasn't a roaring success either so he came back to England and joined an awful group called The Hot Club before forming the legendary **Johnny Hates Jazz** with **Calvin Hayes** (who was also in The Hot Club) and studio boffin **Mike Nocito**. After only a few "hits", however, they "sadly" split up in 1988 when they decided they didn't like each other any more. Now Clark is busy launching his eagerly awaited solo career.

DEACON BLUE



▲ Deacon Blue, L-R: (back) Graeme Kelling, Lorraine McIntosh, Ricky Ross, Douglas Vipond. (front) Ewan Vernal, James Prime.

Ricky Ross used to be a schoolteacher in Glasgow until he decided it was boring and swanned off to Dundee to invent his group **Deacon Blue** instead. They created an LP called "Raintown" in 1987 which was much "acclaimed" by lots of dreary music critics but the public did not "go" for it. It took many, many singles ("Dignity", "Chocolate Girl", "When Will You (Make My Telephone Ring)" etc) until finally, in the Autumn of 1988 – kerwip!! – the universe suddenly realised how marvellous they were and bought lots of copies of "Real Gone Kid" and they became supremely famous "overnight". Ricky Ross is quite old (29) and used to be married but now he isn't and he does not own a goldfish. "Have I got a goldfish?? Aw, wise up!!!" Ooer.

Dogs are pretty useless.
They keep running after sticks.
They pant and lick and "play dead"
And other stupid tricks.
Cats are not much better,
Though they think they're rather snoot.
They drag mice entrails round the house
Which isn't very cute.
A pet should share your life with you
A pet should be your friend,
That's why an elephant is the pet we'd recommend.
It won't forget your birthday,
It'll share its currant bun.
It'll groove on down to triff pop sounds,
It'll trumpet the Number One.
It'll do all your homework,
It'll clean up and then,
It'll introduce you to all its pop pals
Like Matt, Luke and Ken!

● (Actually some of this poem isn't strictly true – Ken isn't The Other One's real name).

DEF LEPPARD

Def Leppard are **Joe Elliot** (singer), **Rick Savage** (guitar), **Phil Collen** (guitar), **Steve Clarke** (bass) and **Ricky Allen** (drums). They formed in Sheffield in 1977 and played their first "gig" for the princely sum of £5 in a school gym. Now they're one of the most rich and famous rock bands in the entire universe having sold countless millions of copies of their two most recent LPs "Pyromania" and "Hysteria". But The 'Lepps' road to riches has not been without it's moments of tragedy. On New Years Eve 1984, Ricky Allen suffered a horrendous car crash and had his left arm ripped off. But such is the chuminess of The 'Lepps' that the others refused to carry on without their drumming pal and waited until he'd built a special electronic drum "kit" which meant he could play using just one arm and both his feet! What a trooper. The 'Lepps', despite being such legends of rock'n'roll, are affable, down-to-earth types and like nothing better than a game of football (they have their own team, *Def Leppard FC*) or a round of golf. Lovely.



▲ Def Leppard, L-R: (back) Rick Savage, Phil Collen, (front) Rick Allen, Joe Elliot, Steve Clarke.



DURANDURAN

Duran Duran (as they were once known) came from the sprawling conurbation that is Birmingham. In the beginning there were five of them: **Simon Le Bon** (who sang–badly), **Nick Rhodes** (who "played" keyboards and took some dreadful photographs), **John Taylor** (bass), **Andy Taylor** (guitar) and **Roger Taylor** (drums). Then they had an almighty falling out and became two different groups called **The Power Station** and **Arcadia**, neither of which were of much merit. So they wisely decided to be Duran Duran again only, by this time, some of them had got married, most of them had grown very stout and one or two of them had gone stark raving mad. So they artfully changed their name to **Duranduran** and now there are just three (Simon, John and Nick) left...



▲ Duranduran, L-R: John Taylor, Simon Le Bon, Nick Rhodes.

JASON DONOVAN

Jason was born 1/6/68 in Melbourne, Australia and he has been a star of stage and screen ever since he was a mere ten years old when, following in his actor dad's footsteps, he appeared in a TV show "down under" called *Skyways* with none other than **Kylie Minogue!** Since then he's been in tons of shows including *Neighbours*.

In 1987 he decided to become a pop star too, so enlisted the services of songwriting experts **Stock Aitken and Waterman** and, hey presto!, **"Nothing Can Divide Us"** whizzed up to the top five, followed swiftly by his weedy duet with Kylie "Especially For You". When he's not being a pop star and working week in week out on *Neighbours*, Jason likes to listen to his INXS LPs, go surfing and pretend *not* to be in a kiss-up situation with Kylie Minogue, even though no-one in the world believes him.

ERASURE

After pondering upon useless names like Wonderland and Two Shot (hem *hem*) for a bit, **Vince Clark** (who was already famous for being in groups like **Depeche Mode** and **Yazoo**) and **Andy Bell** (the bloke who answered Vince's ad for a singer in a music "paper") decided to call themselves **Erasure**. It was a jolly tonic by the name of "Sometimes" which finally turned them into quite famous pop stars, one of whom is famed for standing at the back behind a keyboard looking miserable (i.e. Vince), while the other (i.e. Andy) stands at the front doing a dubious dance with his "hips", wearing a purple bathing suit with tassles in unspeakable places! "I'm a complete cissy," he was heard to piffle at the time.

▼ Erasure, L-R: Vince Clark and Andy Bell.





FIVE STAR



▲ Five Star, L-R: Stedman, Deniece, Lorraine, Doris and Delroy.

They careered from oblivion in 1984 – five Romford striplings in woolly jerseys and endearing mittens – and they "rocked" the world with their first ever hit "All Fall Down", written by their creator Buster "Daddy" Pearson. **Deniece!** With her gargantuan hair-dos. **Doris!** With her "mean" dance steps. **Lorraine!** With her quips such as, "I ate a horse yesterday". **Stedman!** With his non-visible teeth and his amazing fashion creations such as the spangle suits with huge 5's on. **Delroy!** With his skilled carp-baiting. And with these "talents" they invented millions of hits such as "Rain Or Shine", "I Can't Wait" and plenty of others. Then they became so famous they moved to an enormous house in Surrey and bought expensive motorcars to drive around their "estate" in and suddenly they didn't have such enormous hits anymore. Oh dear.

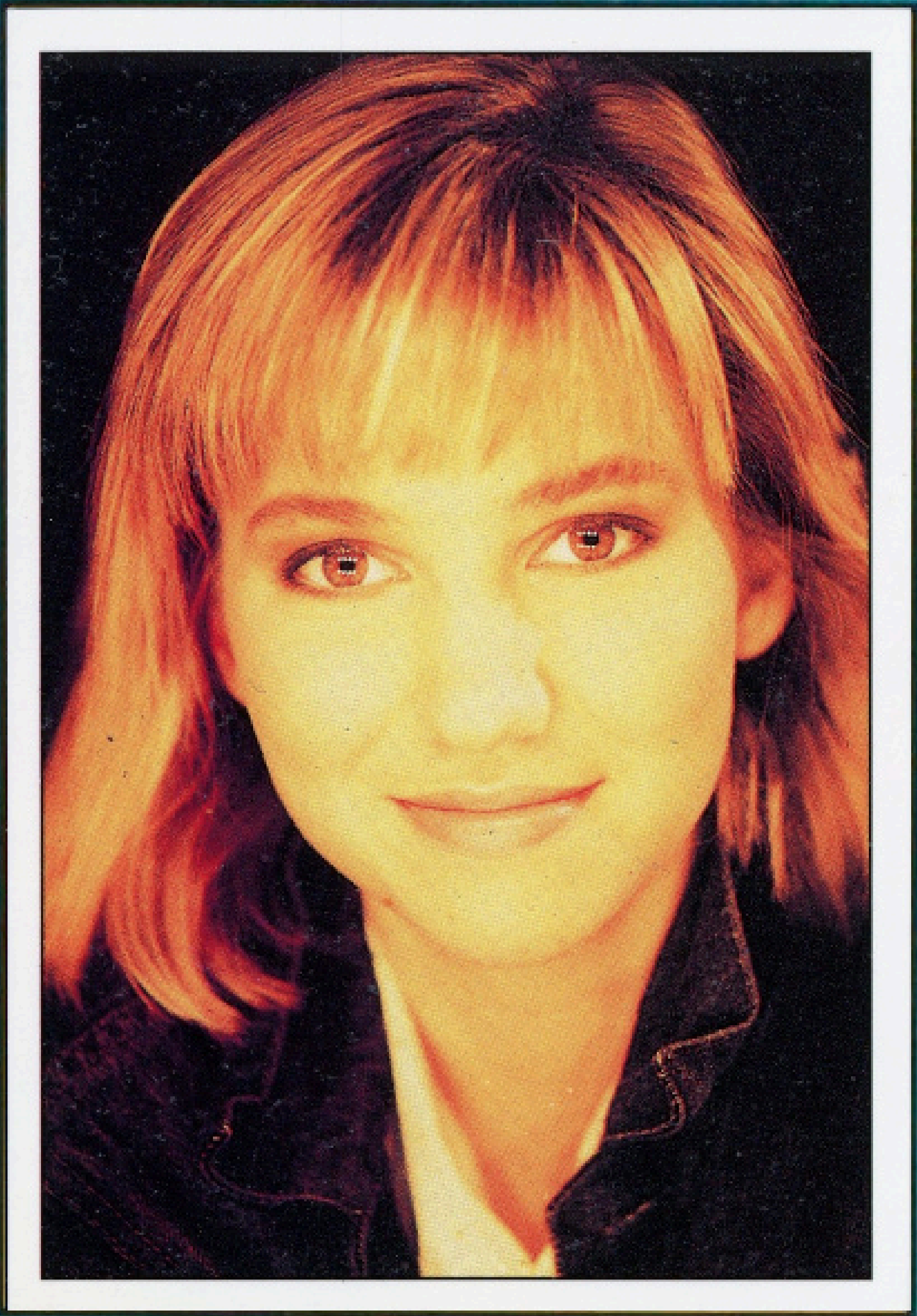
SAMANTHA FOX

Born on 16/1/66 **Samantha Fox** first became famous as the 16 year old model who posed in the pages of one of Britain's less word-filled so-called "news"papers. But in 1987 this cockney lass announced she was giving up modelling for a career as a pop star, confounding all her critics by instantly bounding up the chart with a song called "Touch Me (I Want Your Body)". And Sir Samuel recently astounded the USA by having a top three hit there with a song called "Naughty Girl".



DEBBIE GIBSON

Debbie Gibson was born 31/4/70, began to be a pop star while she was still at school and writes her own tunes because she's such a talented devil. She had four hits last year ("Shake Your Love", "Out Of The Blue", "Only In My Dreams" and "Foolish Beat"), was reputed to be having a kiss-up with **Glen Medeiros**, and draws faces on her knees. "I'd like to be George Michael's hairdresser," she once stated, "because then I could see how he gets his beard to look so good. It just looks too perfect." Gracious!



Now here's a fact about the fish,
That's true from Deal to Dortmund,
He has not got a pair of ears,
So cannot wear a Walkman.

How fortunate the trout is!
And all his scaly mates,
They've never had to listen to,
Our Tune with Simon Bates.

GLORIA ESTEFAN

Although they'd been hugely successful in the US for years it wasn't until 1988 that **Gloria Estefan And The Miami Sound Machine** finally became massive chart sensations in Britain with the blubsome ballad "Anything For You" and the perky "123". Born in Cuba in 1957, Gloria joined The Miami Sound Machine when she was 19, when they were little known outside of Miami and sang all their songs in Spanish. Her husband **Emilio** was also in the group until he left to "concentrate on production". The two of them live in (surprisingly enough) Miami which she describes as "a beautiful city, not at all the evil place it's made out to be on *Miami Vice*".



▲ Nancy and Anne "Heart". Mean rockin' mothers—as you can clearly see.

HEART

Canadian lovelette sisters, **Ann Dustin Wilson** (who used to work in a *Kentucky Fried Chicken* shop), and **Nancy Lamoureaux Wilson** (who used to be an algebra teacher), are the rock 'n' roll phenomenon that is **Heart.** They're backed by three blokes with ugliness problems i.e. **Howard Lesse** who owns four Porsches, **Mark Andes** who used to be a vet, and **Dennis Carmassi** who is dreadfully boring, but it hasn't stopped them making heaps of banner-waving records such as "Alone" and "These Dreams". Anne, or is it Nancy? – no-one can fathom which is which – owns a dog called Lucky or something and whoever the other one is, has a donkey called Eeyor. As Mark Andes once stated: "Rock 'n' roll – it's a crazy world."

WHITNEY HOUSTON

- She's had lots of smashing pop hits like "I Wanna Dance With Somebody" and "Saving All My Love For You"!
- She used to be a model!
- Her mum's a famous gospel singer named Cissy who sang with the "legendary" Sweet Inspirations!
- Her dad's her manager and was her "first crush"! (?)
- Dionne Warwick *(60's crooner)* is her aunt and that bellower of "soul", Aretha Franklin, is a so-called family friend!
- Michael Jackson's her chum!
- Her childhood nickname was "Nippy"!



IRON MAIDEN



▲ Iron Maiden, L-R: Dave Murray, Bruce Dickinson, Nicko McBrain, Steve Harris and Adrian Smith.

The 'Maiden are **Bruce Dickinson** (gravel-throated singer), **Nicko McBrain** ("skin" thumper), **Steve Harris** (bass-type), **Adrian Smith** and **Dave Murray** (plank-persons) and they've been knocking about for so-called donkey's years! In 1988, however, they made their first ever "concept" album, "Seventh Son Of A Seventh Son" which, as you can probably guess, was a bit mystical and deep and meaningful. They also headlined at the Castle Donnington "Monsters Of Rock" extravaganza (***dreadful heavy metal convention***) where they proceeded to blow up the entire stage with their rockular firework display. Monsters Of Rock *indeed.*

INXS



MICHAEL HUTCHENCE

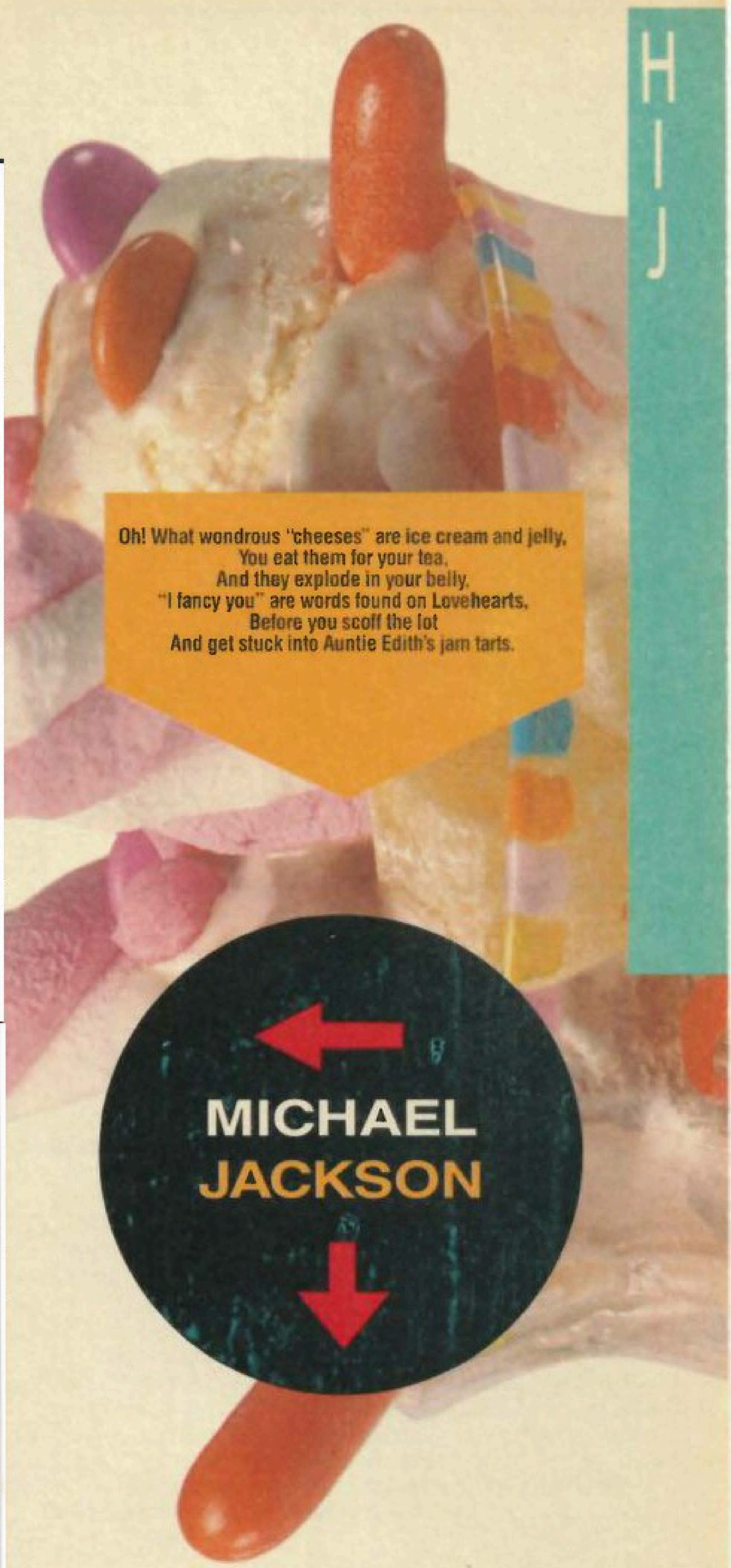
Born in Sydney, Australia on 22/1/60, **Michael Hutchence** was a rebellious young lad who hated his teachers and put ads in the papers to sell their houses and carved up his very own chest with "tribal scars". Then he went to see The Bee Gees and decided he'd be a rock 'n' roll hero and became a hopeless cocktail waiter in the meantime. Nowadays he lives in a flat in Hong Kong which is full of "Aboriginal artefacts – things like dragons and weapons" and, of course, lots of people fancy him something rotten. "Maybe people stare at me because I look stupid," he once mused. Indeed. (?)

In the late 1970s three brothers called **Tim, Jon** and **Andrew Fariss** invented a group called The **Fariss Brothers** because they didn't have any imagination (haw haw). Then they got their school-chum, **Michael Hutchence,** in, changed their name to The Vegetables and made a tune called "We Are The Vegetables". It wasn't very good. Thankfully they ceased this tomfoolery and changed their name to **INXS.** Although they were mightily famous practically eveywhere else in the cosmos it was only in 1988 that tunes like "New Sensation" and "Need You Tonight" humped up the British hit parade.

▼ InXS, L-R: Tim Farris, Andrew Farris, Garry Beers, John Farris, Kirk Pengilly and Michael Hutchence.



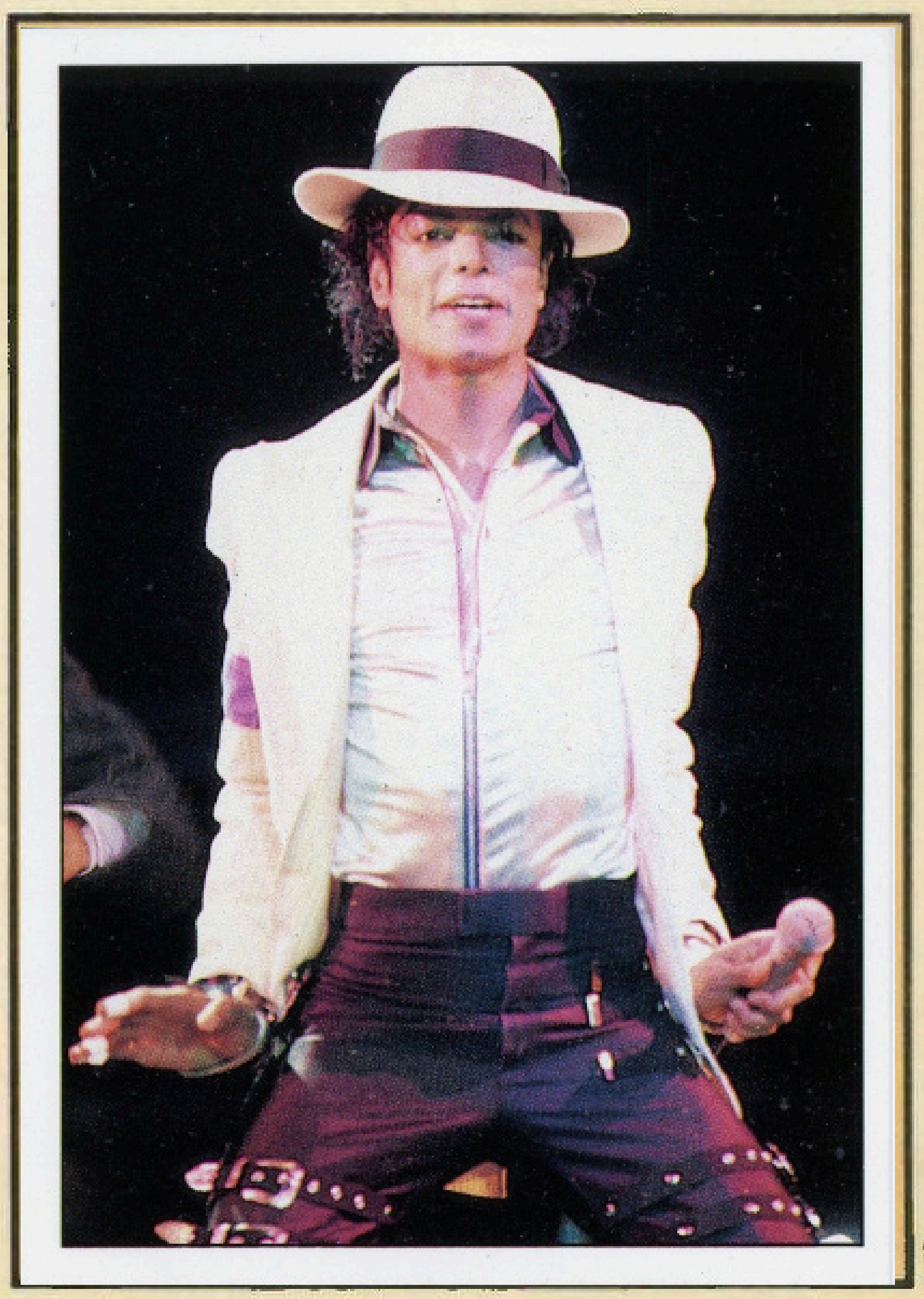




Oh! What wondrous "cheeses" are ice cream and jelly,
You eat them for your tea,
And they explode in your belly.
"I fancy you" are words found on Lovehearts,
Before you scoff the lot
And get stuck into Auntie Edith's jam tarts.

MICHAEL JACKSON

Born 29/8/58 Michael Jackson astonished his family and chums with his amazing croonings and now legendary limb-quaverings when he was five years old. By the time he was nine he fronted the group his big brothers had invented, The Jackson 5, and whirled into infamy with the soul toe-tappers "I Want You Back", "ABC", "I'll Be There" and several more. By the end of the '70s Michael decided he'd be quite good at going solo. He was right! His first LP "Off the Wall" was a huge happener and Michael had his first nose-job in celebration. Thus began the notion that he was indeed the maddest pop star on the planet. His hair took on many strange contortions and by the time his second solo LP "Thriller" was invented (the most successful LP of all time to date), he was dressing up as The Bogey Man and wearing a spangley glove. In 1984 his hair exploded while filming the very expensive *Pepsi* American telly advert. But! The universe still loved him and bought numerous copies of his third solo LP "Bad" which "spawned" thousands of hit singles and he did his first ever solo tour of Britain. The "news" papers, of course, went mental: Michael lived in an oxygen tent and had a new face *entirely* and was petrified of meeting people because of their germs etc. etc. The clots! Towards the end of 1988 Michael wrote his very own book *Moonwalk* in which he explained how perplexed he is by these rumours: "All of these charges are ridiculous. If they were true I would say so, but they're not." But then he invented his very own film called *Moonwalker* in which he turns into a car every second which does nothing to suggest his overwhelming normality when you think about it. To this day Michael has made 71 singles and 42 LPs! Now all he wants in the universe is a wee wife to look after him. "One day..." he wists, he's going to find "the right woman" and have 13 children. Let us hope so..*(??)*





JANET JACKSON

Janet Jackson is the youngest of the infamous Jackson family. Disappointed with her miserable attempts at having a hit she ran away and married singer **James de Barge** for about five minutes. Soon after their "divorce" she zapped out a stormer of an LP called "Control" which gave her *seven* hit singles. Interestingly she is almost as peculiar as her brother **Michael**. She sleeps with a snake and confesses, "When I'm in an hotel I get the urge to throw fruit out the window. And I *do*."



JELLYBEAN

One of pop's most notorious tiddlers, **Jellybean** (whose real name is **John Benitez**) stands a mere 5′2½″ "tall" but this didn't stop him being **Madonna**'s boyfriend for two years and "producing" her first big hit "Holiday". He started out being a DJ in trendy New York clubs, then he started remixing and producing records for millions of famous pop types. In 1987 he finally became a pop star in his own right with tunes such as "Who's Found Who" and "Jingo" which he neither writes nor sings. Even though he's so wee Jellybean likes nothing more than a game of basketball, a sport favoured, coincidentally, by that other great pop midget, Prince.



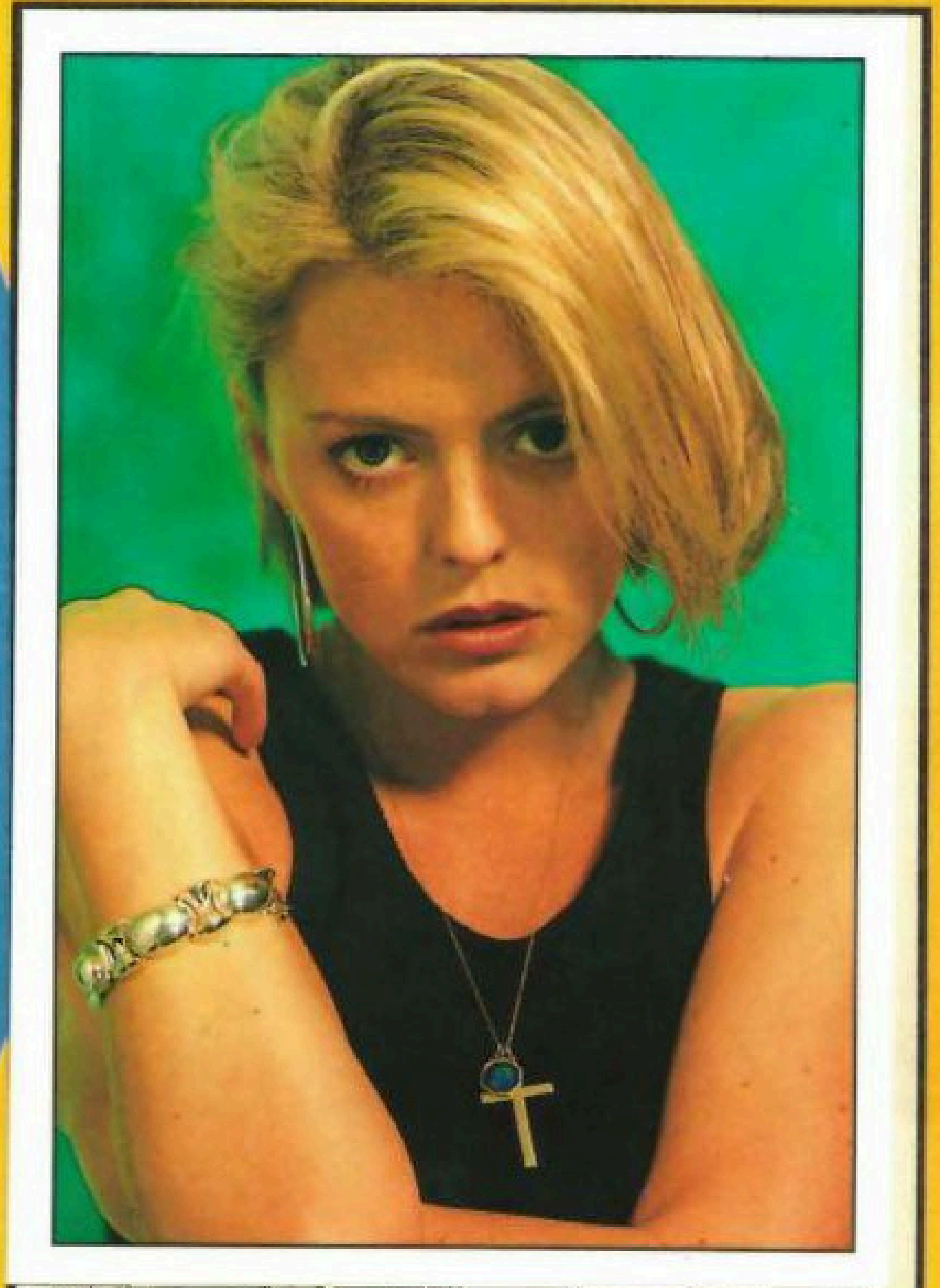
HOLLY JOHNSON

He used to be the singer in **Frankie Goes To Hollywood** who were, of course, massively huge in their "day" with their racey, swirling disco epics such as "Relax", "Two Tribes" and "The Power Of Love". But then the Liverpudlian five-piece had a rather substantial tiff with their record company about who should "reap" the rewards of all this success and suddenly Frankie were no longer. "I think being a pop musician is the most stressful thing in the universe," he once quipped. And who can blame him? Still, being the trouper that he is, Holly, most noted for his magnificent quiffery and astonishing "box" suits, has put it all down to experience and is gradually rampaging back to prominence with funky waxings like "Love Train". And about time too.



PATSY KENSIT

A child "actress" appearing in such notable productions as the *Birds Eye Pea* advert, the young **Patsy Kensit** soon turned her "hand" to singing and insisted on joining her brother Jamie's group, **Eighth Wonder**. They never had any hits at all until the **Pet Shop Boys** decided to write a tune for them called "I'm Not Scared" which was an enormous chart sensation. Then Patsy got married to her boyfriend, Dan, out of ex-famous group **Big Audio Dynamite** and Eighth Wonder swirled back into oblivion. What a shame. "Interesting" fact: Patsy hasn't got any fillings in her teeth!



LEVEL 42





Level 42 consists these days of two new blokes, **Alan Murphy** and **Garry Husbands** *(who replaced brothers Phil and "Boon" Gould who left to make "proper" music in 1987)*, **Mike Lindup** and **Mark King** – he of the widely famed pneumatic thumb "action" bass-spanking. Mark and his thumb are reputed to be insured for over three million nicker these days and last year he bought a huge mansion on the Isle Of Wight where he is fond of doing a spot of gardening. He has a wealth of handy horticultural tips and once advised *Smash Hits* thus: "If you've got slugs in your greenhouse or garden, just peel a carrot and stick it in the ground. They won't touch anything else. They always go for the carrot." Gosh!

Jellyfish are nasty and can do you some harm-ah!
Completely unlike the ineffectual Llama.
Kangeroos are huge and given to skipping.
Monkeys are not, except when they're flipping . . . or mad mate!



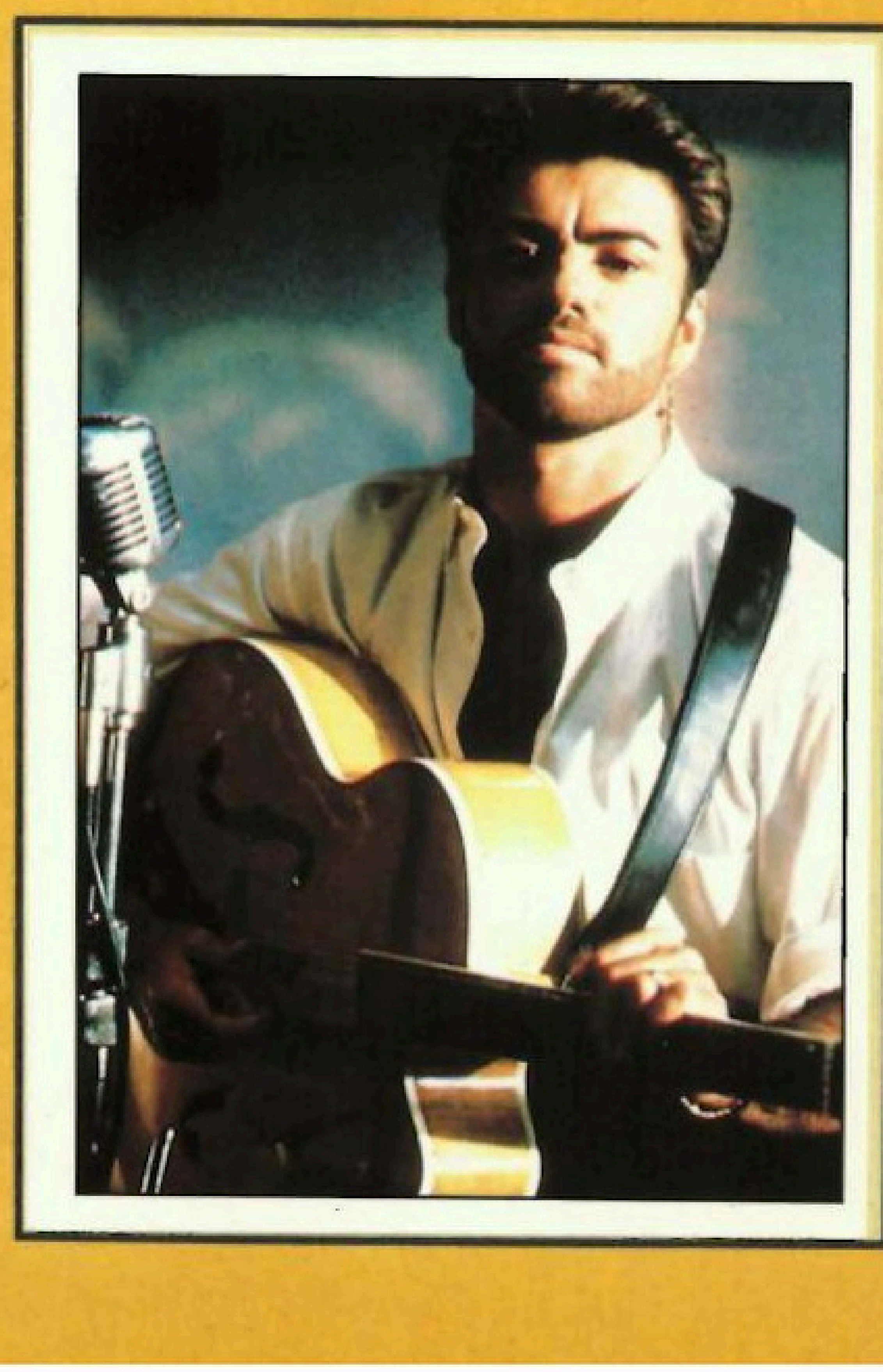




GEORGE MICHAEL

George Michael towers above many of his pop peers with no less than seven super pop smashes in the past two years, such is his lofty stature as a singer/songwriter. He is renowned the globe across for his "beard" and his leather leg-claddings and his videos crammed with sexlicious girlies traipsing around the shop with their undergarments to the "fore". Still, there we are. His real name is **Yorgos Kyriakou Panayioto**, his previous jobs included being a DJ in a sports club, a shelf stacker in *British Home Stores*, a cinema usher, and being the singer in **Wham!** And, he claims, he has never said "Hello, I'm a deciduous Douglas Fir pine tree, please chop me down!"





MADONNA

Born on 16/8/58, **Madonna Louise Ciccone**, is famed for her "bustiers", her extreme sportiness, her marriage to the disagreeable "actor" **Sean Penn** and of course her marvellous pop spangles. She has had 17 – *17!!* top ten hits in Britain alone and not satisfied with that, has also made four films, none of which were very much cop. She recently turned all spooky and "thespian" by "treading" the "boards" in the Broadway play *Speed-The-Plow,* which might account for her lack of pop activity of late. Still, the release of her new album "Like a Prayer" in 1989 will probably help put things to rights and prove that Madonna hasn't deserted her fans after all . . .

KYLIE MINOGUE



On 28/5/68, a tiny little baby girlie was born in Melbourne, Australia and her mum decided to name her **Kylie** which means boomerang in the native Australian "tongue". Despite this dubious beginning, Kylie grew *(but not very much, haw haw)* to be a little girlie who wore blue and yellow vinyl leiderhosen *(daft German bib 'n' breeks)* and liked sewing and read a queer fantasy novel called *The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe*. And there the normality ended, for she became an actress and did lots of weeny roles on Australian telly and then some bigger roles in programmes called things like *The Sullivans* and *Skyways* (where she first met her "pal" **Jason Donovan**) and finally *Neighbours*, which was a soaraway soap sensation and Kylie became one of the biggest stars in the known universe. Then she decided she would be a pop singer for a lark and in 1987 trilled a version of an ancient sixties tune called "The Locomotion" which went to No. 1 in Australia for several decades. Then *Neighbours* was released upon the British nation and how they loved it and pop "wizards" **Stock, Aitken and Waterman** cottoned on to the Kylie "phenomenon" *("Kylie is a phenomenon!!" – Peter Waterman, 41)*. They invented "I Should Be So Lucky" for her which also went to No. 1 for several decades and Kylie's fame and good-lookingness knew no bounds. She is most famed for her alarming smallness, her alarming bigness of teeth *("The Minogue teeth cannot be mistaken")* and her love of chocolate sandwiches. She has bamboozled the world with her constant denial of real-life kiss-ups between herself and Jason and mere weeks before the release of the 1988 Christmas knees-up duet "Especially For You" she fibbed "Me and Jason doing a duet? Rubbish!!"



There's a monster in Loch Ness who is big and tough and mean,
He eats a lot of bed springs and he's never ever been seen,
But if you were to dangle a **noodle** o'er the side of a canoe
He'll bob up for a nibble and probably say "Yoo-hoo!!"

▼ The Mission. L-R: Simon Hinkler, Craig Adams, Wayne Hussey and Mick Brown.



THE MISSION

Bristol bloke **Wayne Hussey** used to be in the **Sisters Of Mercy** who single-handedly invented guitar twirlin' gloom-filled Gothic music and then he left to form his own guitar twirlin' gloom-filled Gothic music with **Craig**, also from ver Sisters, and two chums **Mick** and **Simon**, both from dicey "punk" bands. Together they stormed the frontiers of popular song via such mystical spangles as "Stay With Me" and "Severina" and "Tower Of Strength" etc. Wayne is renowned for writing his tunes in creepy monasteries in the Welsh hillsides, wearing disgusting "shades" and being very fond of a tipple. He now has a child called **Hanna** and blubs "She's beautiful, she's changed my life," even though he's still as fond of a tipple as he ever was *(haw haw)*.

MORRISSEY



Born **Stephen Patrick Morrissey** on 22/5/1959 in Manchester, **Morrissey** was an eccentric recluse who sat in his bedroom all day reading the works of Oscar Wilde and writing books about James Dean until one day he invented a group called **The Smiths** and became a celebrated eccentric much given to wearing flowers in his pocket and a hearing aid. He made it his business to say nasty things about most other pop stars, The Royal Family and anyone who ate meat, claiming to be celibate *(i.e. someone who never has rumpy pumpy)* and that sort of caper. In 1988 after the Smiths had disbanded he became a solo "artist" and his devoted following ensured that "Suedehead" and "Every Day Is Like Sunday" were both top ten hits. Morrissey lives near Manchester and is not very normal.

NEW ORDER

New Order rose from the so-called "ashes" of a terminally miserable group called Joy Division in the early 1980s. It was their 12" single "Blue Monday" which finally made them a bit famous and probably very rich too, since it sold a total of 2,500,000–2,500,000!! – copies worldwide. The singer was "christened" **Bernard Sumner** but he renamed himself **Barney** after the character Barney Rubble in the "The Flintstones" (or so the story goes). Keyboard-players **Gillian Gilbert** and **Stephen Morris** are involved in a kiss-up situation, while bass-player **Peter Hook** is best known for being unreasonably grumpy at all times.

▼ New Order. L-R: Peter Hook, Gillian Gilbert, "Barney" and Stephen Morris.





The Japs get up to many japes.
Like eating seaweed out of woks.
And folding paper into shapes
Of mountain goats and pairs of socks.
(This paper lark's called Origami . . .
It's barmy.)



ALEXANDER O'NEAL

The plump "funkateer" as **Alexander O'Neal** likes to call himself, is a bit of "ladeez" man even though he's old enough to know better (i.e. 35) and has a wife and three nippers **(Carlton, Katrice** and **Harmony)**. Indeed, the Alex O'Neal "live" experience involves all manner of flirtatious pervings including rolling a four poster bed onto the stage and inviting a lady from the audience to be sweated upon thereon. He once said, "I'm like the March wind, you never know which direction I'm going to blow in."



MICA PARIS

Despite the days of her youth being "disturbed" by fantasies of becoming a fashion designer (*"Mica Paris, Fashion Extraordinaire", that's what I used to call myself!*) **Mica Paris** soon started to fib about her age and bunk off school so that she could do some session singing for rich and famous types. And before very long (at the age of 19 to be precise) she was having hits of her own like "You're My One Temptation" and making a spectacle of herself at **Prince's** parties and telling the entire world how fab she is!

THE PASADENAS

The Pasadenas started life as a humble dance troupe tragically called **Finesse**. Then, one day, they decided they all had a fair set of "pipes", wrote themselves a few tunes (i.e. "Tribute", "Riding On A Train", "Enchanted Lady" etc.), named themselves The Pasadenas after an American football team that was on the telly at the time and became an all-singing, all-dancing pop sensation! Whereupon the entire cosmiverse instantly fell in love with their bendy-boned dance routines and gazelle-like high kicks. The fivesome are . . .

- **Andrew:** He used to work in *Woolworths* and once thought his head had exploded in an Indian restaurant. (?)
- **Hamish:** He was saved from a life of crime by joining the Pasadenas even though they all call him "Elvis".
- **Mike:** Mike is Dave's twin. He spent his youth crafting cardboard guitars and pretending to be Fred Astaire.
- **Dave:** (i.e. Mike's twin!) He used to work in a *Kentucky Fried Chicken* shop and has a wibbly aversion to amber street lamps.
- **Jeff:** He's the twins' younger brother and he once hurt his little finger by crashing into a cliff. (?) He once said: "To be honest with you, if my hair's not right I get in a really bad mood." Remarkable!



▲ The Pasadenas, L-R: Rockin' Jeff, Mike, Andrew, Hamish and Dave.

PERFECT DAY



▲ Perfect Day, L-R: Marks, Kevin, Mark J and Andy.

Perfect Day are a four-piece "combo" consisting of **Mark Jones** (tonsil-twizzler), **Mark Scott** (drumsperson), **Kevin Howard** (plank spanker) and **Andy Wood** (ace-basser). Last year they released two singles, "Jane" and "This Is America" *(quite good, actually)* but they both flopped dismally. January of this year "saw" the release of "Liberty Town" and that's the long and short of it! Except...did you know that after 20 minutes of Mark Jones' driving test, the examiner said, "Pull over please. I am stopping this test in the interests of human safety!" Or that Andy used to be a lollipop man? Or that Mark Scott was a "used" car salesman? Or that Kevin used to be a Private "Eye"?...Probably not.

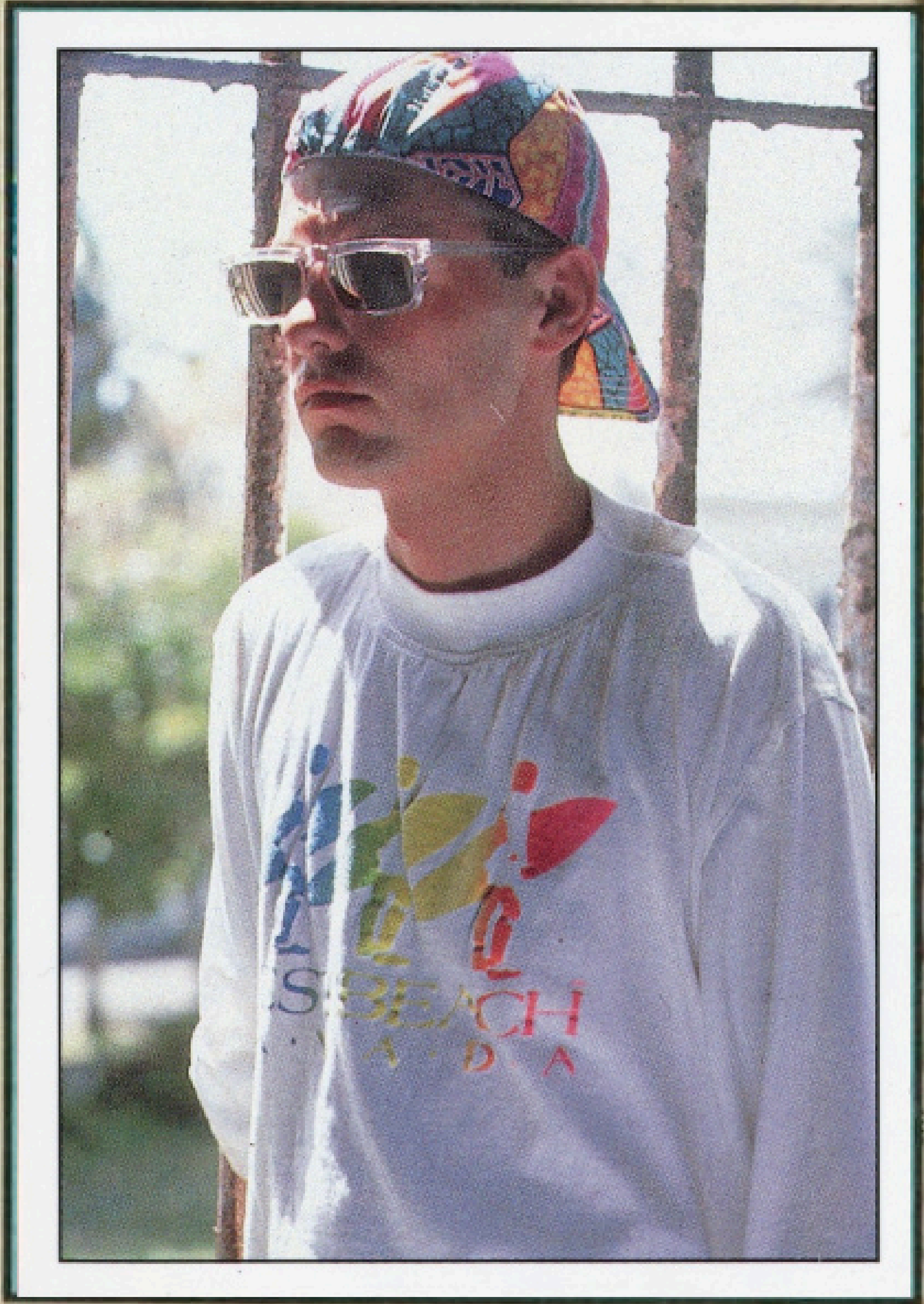
PET SHOP BOYS

Many aeons ago in the fogs of time (i.e. 1981) two geezers – one an ex-architect called **Chris Lowe**, one an ex-*Smash Hits* "journalist" called **Neil Tennant** – met in a hi-fi shop and got blethering about their love of dodgy disco records and – bersook!! – they decided to make more dodgy disco records (except they were quite good, really). Thus they decided to never smile again and Neil wore big long overcoats and together they began the making of such super pop swankers as "West End Girls" and "Love Comes Quickly" and "Rent" and "It's A Sin" and all those others and they became one of the most famous and "revered" pop groups of all time. In 1988 they made a film called *It Couldn't Happen Here* which was mad and no-one liked it much but they didn't care because that's the kind of guys they are. Neil is a big Cilla Black fan and would like to retire in a Renaissance palace in the hills of Italy. Chris is terrified of bees and would like to go on a *Club 18-30* holiday before he is 30 which is on October 4, 1989. Oh dear.



▲ Pet Shop Boys, L-R: Neil and Chris.





THE POGUES



▲ The Pogues, L-R: Philip Chevron, Spider Stacey, Terry Woods, Jem Finer, James Fearnley, Shane MacGowan, Andrew Ramken and Daryl Hunt.

Originally called Pogue Mahone (which means, putting it politely, "kiss my bottom" in Gaelic), **The Pogues** are a much-loved troupe of folky/punky London Irish minstrels famed for their spirited live performances and fondness for strong drink. Their lead singer, **Shane McGowan,** was once a punk rocker who had part of his ear bitten off. His teeth are legendary for their unpleasantness. Despite being one of the ugliest groups in the history of pop and being a bit too raucous for most people's tastes, The Pogues do have the occasional hit. In fact, they only missed the Christmas No. 1 spot by a whisker in 1987 with their "romantic" "Fairytale Of New York".

PRINCE

He was born **Prince Rogers Nelson** on 7/6/58. His mum nicknamed him Skipper "because he was so small and cute". When he was young he always made his own bed every day and kept his room very tidy. At school he used to sneak into music lessons uninvited and soon learned how to play over twenty different instruments. He's had absolutely buckets of hits. His first "real" one in Britain being "When Doves Cry" in 1984. He wrote his first song when he was five by banging two rocks together. (??) He's appeared in three films – *Purple Rain* (the good one), *Under The Cherry Moon* (the rotten one) and *Sign Of The Times* (the one where he performs "live" onstage). He's fond of his foxtresses and has had many girlfriends – Apollonia, Vanity and Cat to name but a fraction – who he's helped to become famous. He's a barking mad perv!



QUEEN

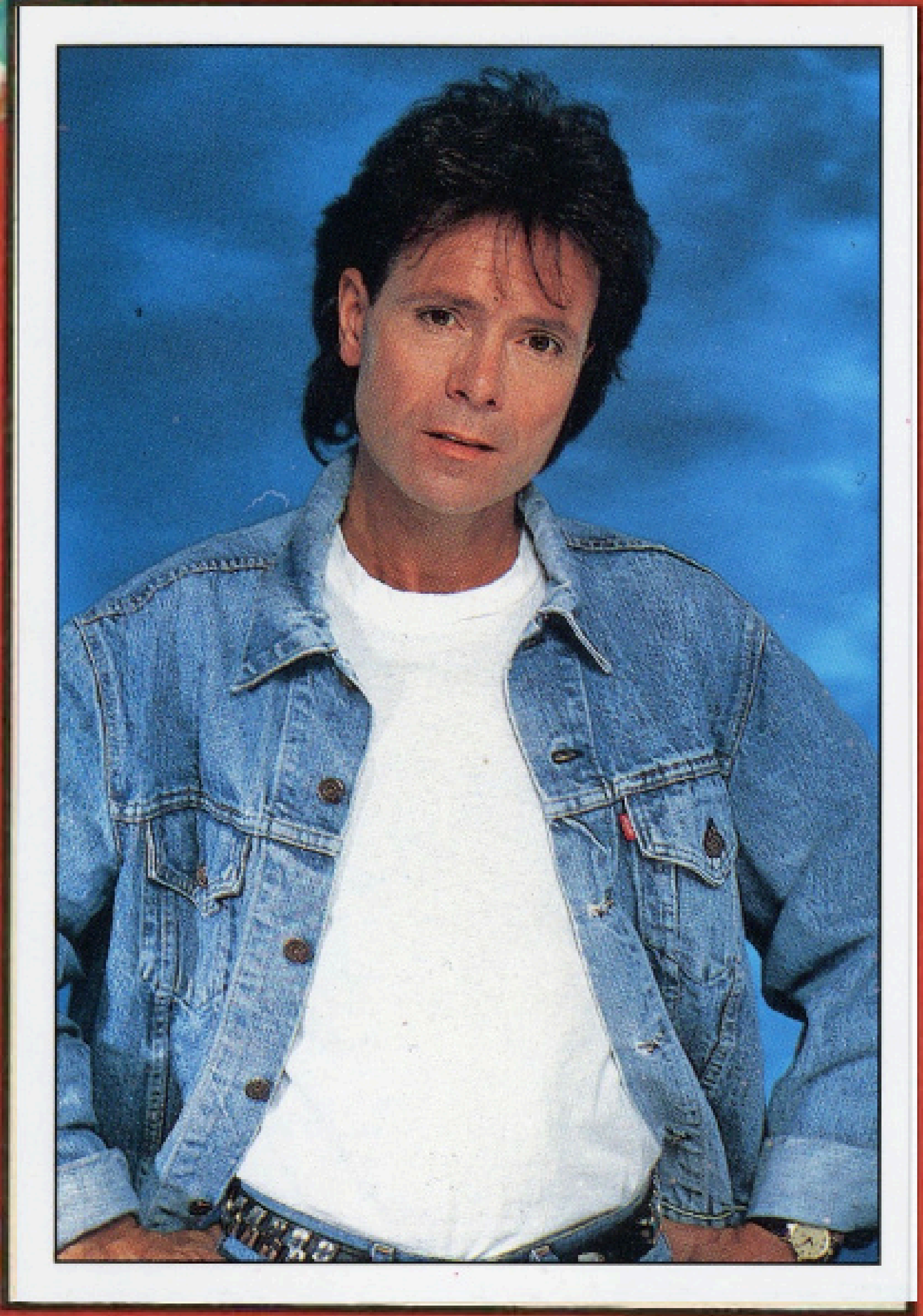


▲ Queen, L-R: John Deacon, Freddie Mercury, Roger Taylor and Brian May.



FREDDIE MERCURY

When he was very young in the '70s **Frederick Bulsara** had alarmingly long hair and great big huge front teeth and he thought it would be a great idea to be an infamous rock singer called **Freddie Mercury.** So he created an outfit called Smile but quickly thought better of it and changed the name to **Queen,** whereupon they invented a tune called "Bohemian Rhapsody" which had many "foreign" bits in it and was an enormous hit. They became famous and were announced to be the "best live band in the world" (hem hem), and Freddie Mercury grew an unspeakable moustache and looked like Lord Lucan (deceased member of the aristocracy). Nowadays, Fred spends much of his time being an operatic sort with **Montserrat Caballe** – an enormous woman in a bed-spread.



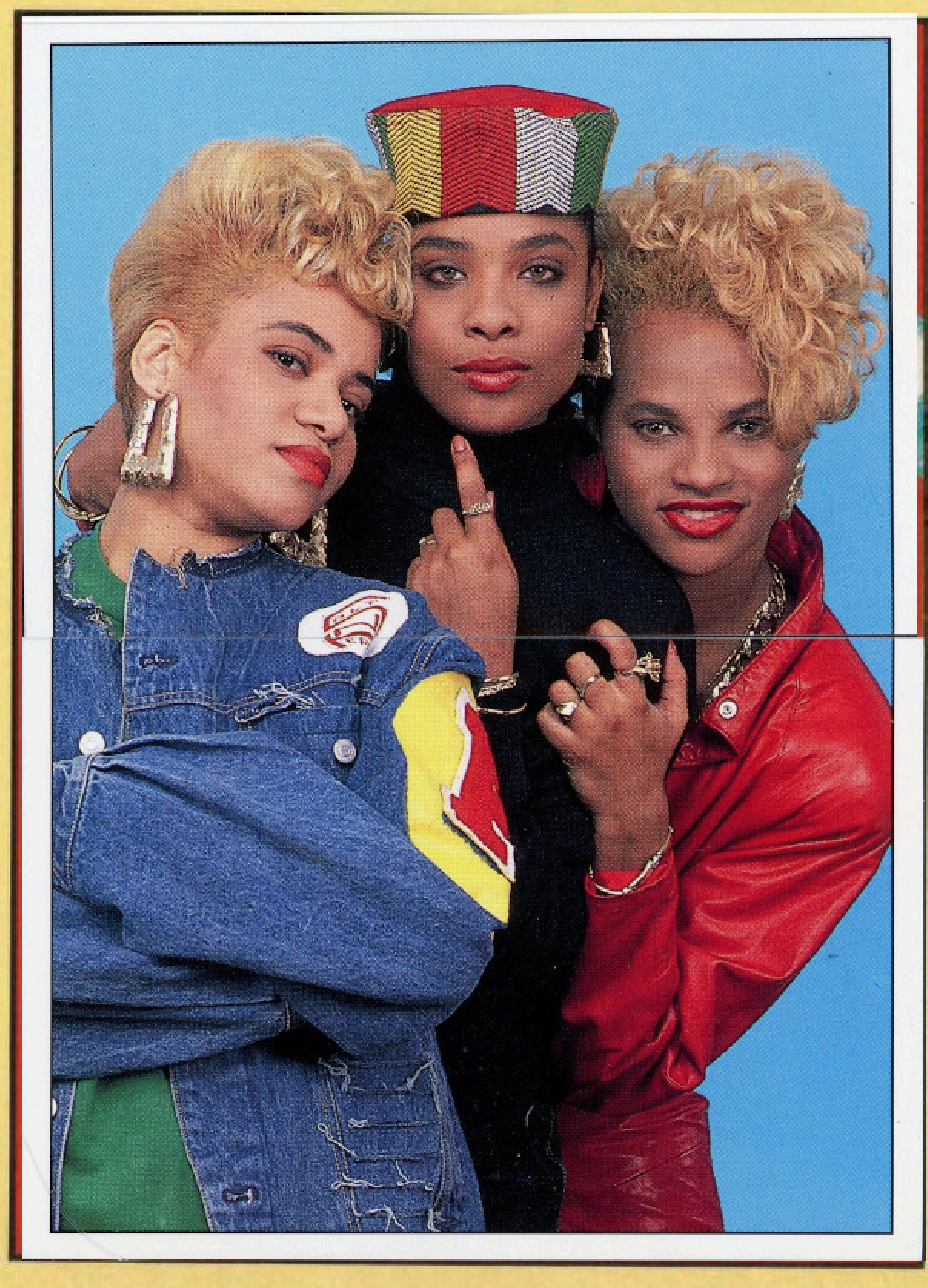
CLIFF RICHARD

Cliff Richard, the venerable old gentleman of British pop, was born in a coal skuttle in India several years ago. Within seconds, he had invented rock'n'roll with an Elvis Presley-style quiff, "provocative" hip-wriggling antics on the television and appearances in cinematic romps about bus stops with leading lady Dame Una Nescafe. In 1968 Cliff's life took a dramatic turn when he fell in love with a tennis racket. The Queen felt so sorry for him that she gave him an MBE. This cheered him up no end and he went on to have many hits about the baby Jesus and to star as a hologram in a selection of dud West End musicals. Crumbs!

Pullovers come in all shapes and sizes,
And socks do too—they're full of surprises!
As fashion goes they're really triff,
Unless you sweat unduly in the foot and underarm "areas"
In which case they niff.

SALT 'N' PEPA

Isn't fate a rum old thing? It was a chance meeting in their college canteen which brought **Salt 'n' Pepa** together. Neither were "model" students so they decided to leave and become telephone sales types instead, except they weren't much cop at that either so it was a good job that Salt's boyfriend (at the time) happened to be a rap "supremo" bloke called **Herbie "Love Bug" Azore.** He decided they'd make a fab hot 'n' happenin' rapster duo and invented a tune for them called "The Showstopper". After booting out their original scratching person they were joined by **DJ Spinderella** and their records have been selling like hot cupcakes ever since! **Salt:** Her real name is **Cheryl James** and she once thought she was going to be a social worker beause she was such a girlie swot! **Pepa:** She once drank a whole bottle of Jamaica Rum, she's got a fab black leather settee and she's really called **Sandy Denton! Spinderella:** She's the "baby" of the band, her real name's **Dee Dee Roper** and she once said, "I could talk about guys forever", which is fair enough.



▶ Salt 'n' Pepa, L-R: Salt, DJ Spinderella and Pepa.

S-EXPRESS

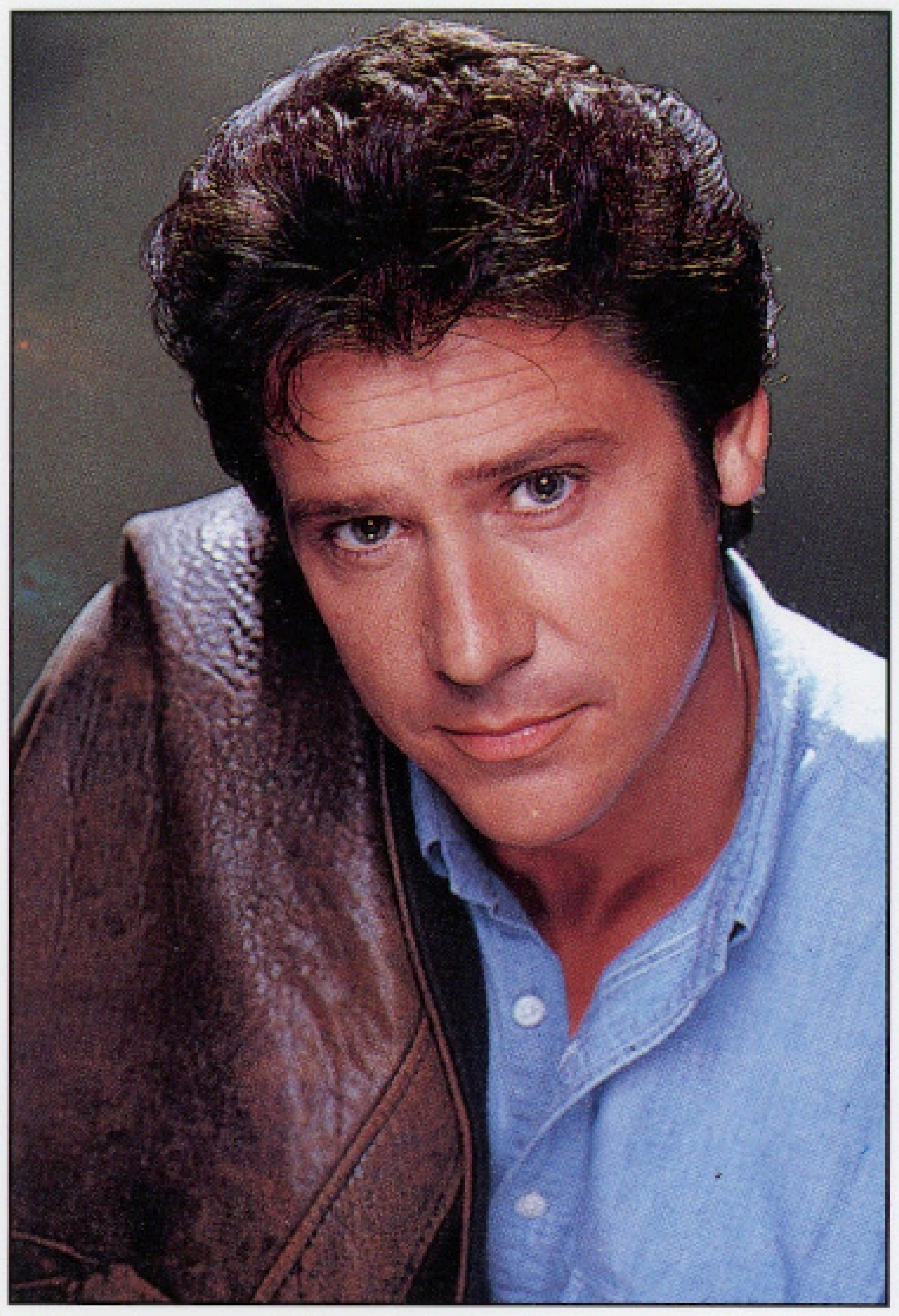


▲ S-Express, L-R: Linda, Michelle, Mark Moore and Chito.

Mark Moore, the half Korean, half British "brains" behind **S-Express** is actually a trendy and happening London DJ. He wasn't trying to be a pop star at all so he was a mite surprised by the success of his first single "Theme from S-Express" which spiralled to No. 1 without hesitation! In order to qualify as a member of S-Express you have to love 70's fashion for, as Mark once philosophised, "I figure people who wear flares now are living the punk ethic". *Quite.*

SHAKIN' STEVENS

When **Michael Barrett** was born on 4/3/49 the world was not to know that this babe would one day become **Shakin' Stevens**, one of the most enduring stars on the UK pop scene. Shakey cut his teeth in the early seventies as the leader of the cult rockabilly combo **Shakin' Stevens And The Sunsets**, but it wasn't until he went solo with massive hits like "Green Door" and "Oh Julie" that he shook the world of pop. When he's not having massive hits Shakey prefers to spend his time at home in Wales with his wife and three children. Isn't that nice?



SIMPLY RED

Mick Hucknall, Simply Red's singer, is a rather outspoken chap renowned for his curlesque red locks (hence the name, probably), his spooky old walking stick which is reputed to have mystical powers and his overwhelming sex appeal even though he's not very handsome. Ver 'Reds were quite the "rage" a few years back with their soulful tunes like, "Holding Back The Years" and "Money's Too Tight To Mention". Then they disappeared to warmer "climes" and the US of "A" and finally into the studio (man) where they have been inventing another of their super albums which they plan to release very, very soon.



▲ Simply Red, L-R: Chris Joyce, Mick Hucknall, Fritz McIntyre, Tim Kellet and Tony Bowers.





▲ Sisters of Mercy, L-R: Patricia Morris and Andrew Eldritch.

SISTERS OF MERCY

The **Sisters Of Mercy** were one of the original "goth" bands until, in 1985, the now famous tiff between **Andrew Eldritch** and **Wayne Hussey** occurred and they split up. After some legal wrangling (because they both wanted their new group to be called The Sisters Of Mercy) Wayne called himself **The Mission** and Andrew teamed up with leather clad vampstress **Patricia Morrison** and became The Sisters of Mercy (again). Since then they've made lots of songs which no one can understand, and a video containing 60 camels, 37 horses and quite a lot of Bedouin persons. Andrew now lives in Berlin where he pretends to be Dame David of Bowie and refuses to have a telephone because he's no longer in possession of all his marbles.

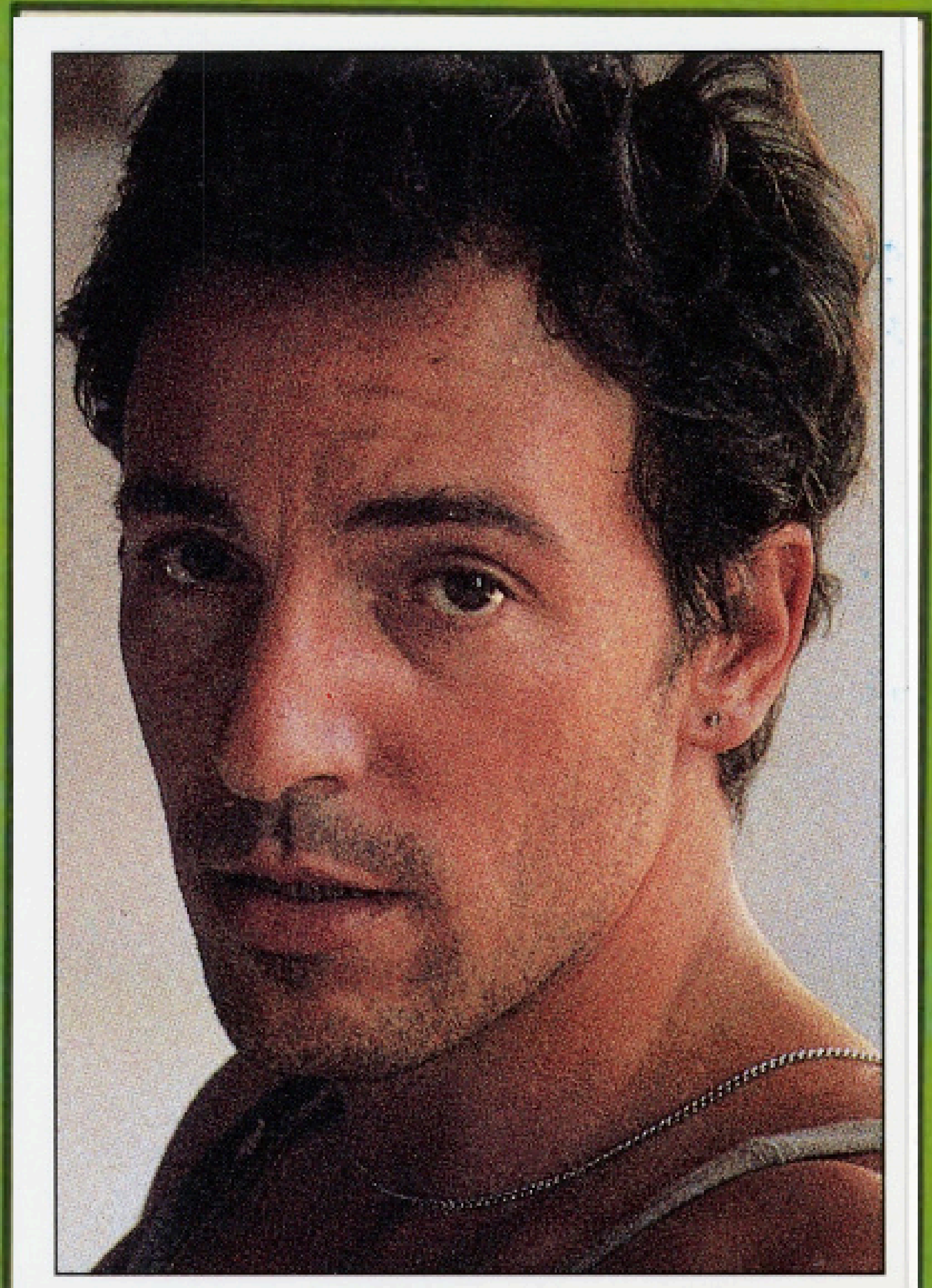
SINITTA

The daughter of vaguely famous disco "artiste" Miquel Brown, **Sinitta** launched her showbusiness career by bunking off school one day (she pretended to be going to the dentist) to attend an audition for a musical, *The Wiz*. She passed and went on to "star" in many a musical before releasing a series of "Hi-NRG" disco records such as "So Macho", "Toy Boy" and "GTO" which turned her into a bona fide pop star. Sinitta lives in London, goes out with a "toy boy" dancer called **Sam Brown** and never wears very many clothes.

Now! If ever you should perchance upon a couple of extra bob,
Buy some scrummy, sugary sweets and stuff them in your gob!
There's all sorts you can choose from-Mars and Twix and Wagon Wheels,
And though they turn your teeth to mush they're a lot tastier than a plate of jellied eels.

Sweets are rather smashing, you can eat them anytime,
Nibble upon a nougat slab or suck a chocolate lime.
Cola cubes are really great and nutcrunch is the same,
But if you eat too many then your teeth will be out of the game.
What a shame.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN



When **Bruce Springsteen** was at school he wasn't very popular: "A nun stuffed me into a garbage can under her desk because she said that's where I belonged", recalls "The Boss'. He's quite popular now though on account of the "stirring" rock anthems that the 39 year old "son" of New Jersey is so gifted at inventing. Bruce married actress Julianne Phillips in 1985 but by 1988 the couple were separated. Apart from that, little is known about the elusive "Boss" except for the fact that he once had a canoe but it broke.

STATUS QUO

Who would have thought that the group who had a fluke hit with the weedily psychedelic "Pictures Of Matchstick Men" back in 1968 would become famous for being the denim clad rockers who gave us "Rockin' All Over The World" and "The Wanderer"? These days the only two original members of **Status Quo** still in the group are guitarists **Francis Rossi** (born 29/5/49) and **Rick Parfitt** (born 29/10/49) but they still continue to rock the '80s despite the fact that they've announced their retirement at least once this decade.



▲ Status Quo, L-R: John Edwards, Andy Bown, Rick Parfitt, Francis Rossi, Jeff Rich.

TANITA TIKARAM

In 1988 **Tanita Tikaram** abandoned her career as a would-be actress and decided to become a singer instead. She wrote some songs inspired by the ancient croonings of '60s poet Leonard Cohen and – presto! – became a top recording "artiste" with her collection of odd and wordy tunes. She's part Fijian and part Borneoan, she was brought up on an army base in West Germany and she thinks the pop charts are "pretty awful". Her hits include "Good Tradition" and the queerly-titled "Twist in My Sobriety".

Skateboards, skateboards, skateboards, they're flipping everywhere,
Skateboards, skateboards, skateboards, take you any place you care.
Skateboards, skateboards, skateboards, but why oh why the fuss?
Skateboards, skateboards, skateboards, I'd rather take the bus.

STOCK AITKEN AND WATERMAN

Pete Waterman was once a humble DJ and record company employee. **Mike Stock** used to earn his crust as a barman in posh hotels. **Matt Aitken**, meanwhile, scratched a living as the guitarist in a "cabaret" band that played on ocean liners. When the three of them teamed up however, they became the biggest songwriting and production phenomenon in the history of pop music!

In 1986 they re-launched the flagging career of **Bananarama** and invented **Mel and Kim**. In 1987 they made their tea boy **Rick Astley** the biggest sensation of the year. And in 1988 they helped **Kylie Minogue, Jason Donovan** and **Brother Beyond** become massive pop stars, such is their "golden touch". Lots of people hate Stock Aitken and Waterman, accusing them of "manufacturing" tacky conveyor belt hits for artists that are mere puppets (according to **Matt Goss** "they take all the soul, personality, character, feeling, love out of what music is about"). Lots of people love them though and buy their records by the "shedful".

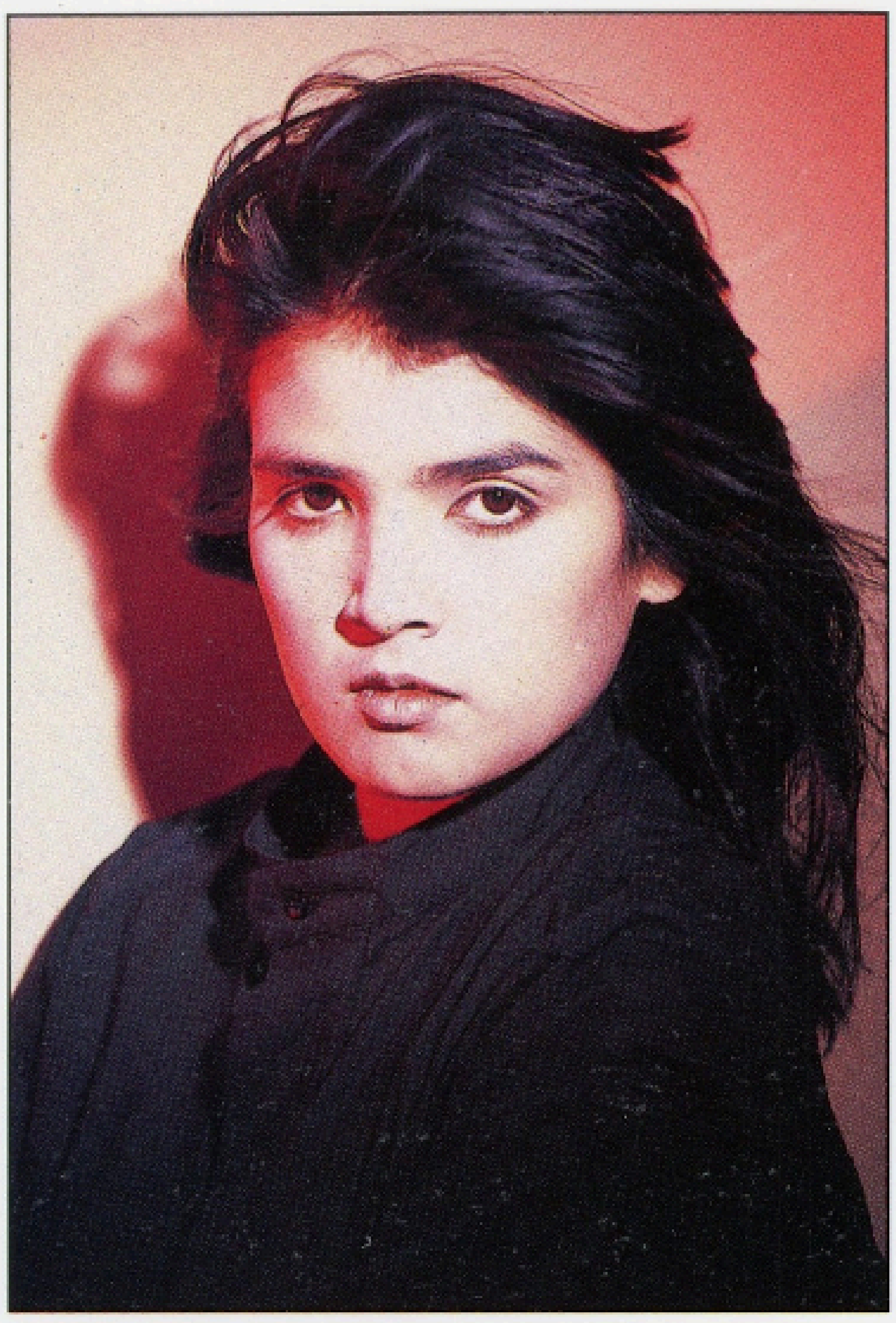


▲ Matt Aitken, Peter Waterman, 41, and Mike Stock.



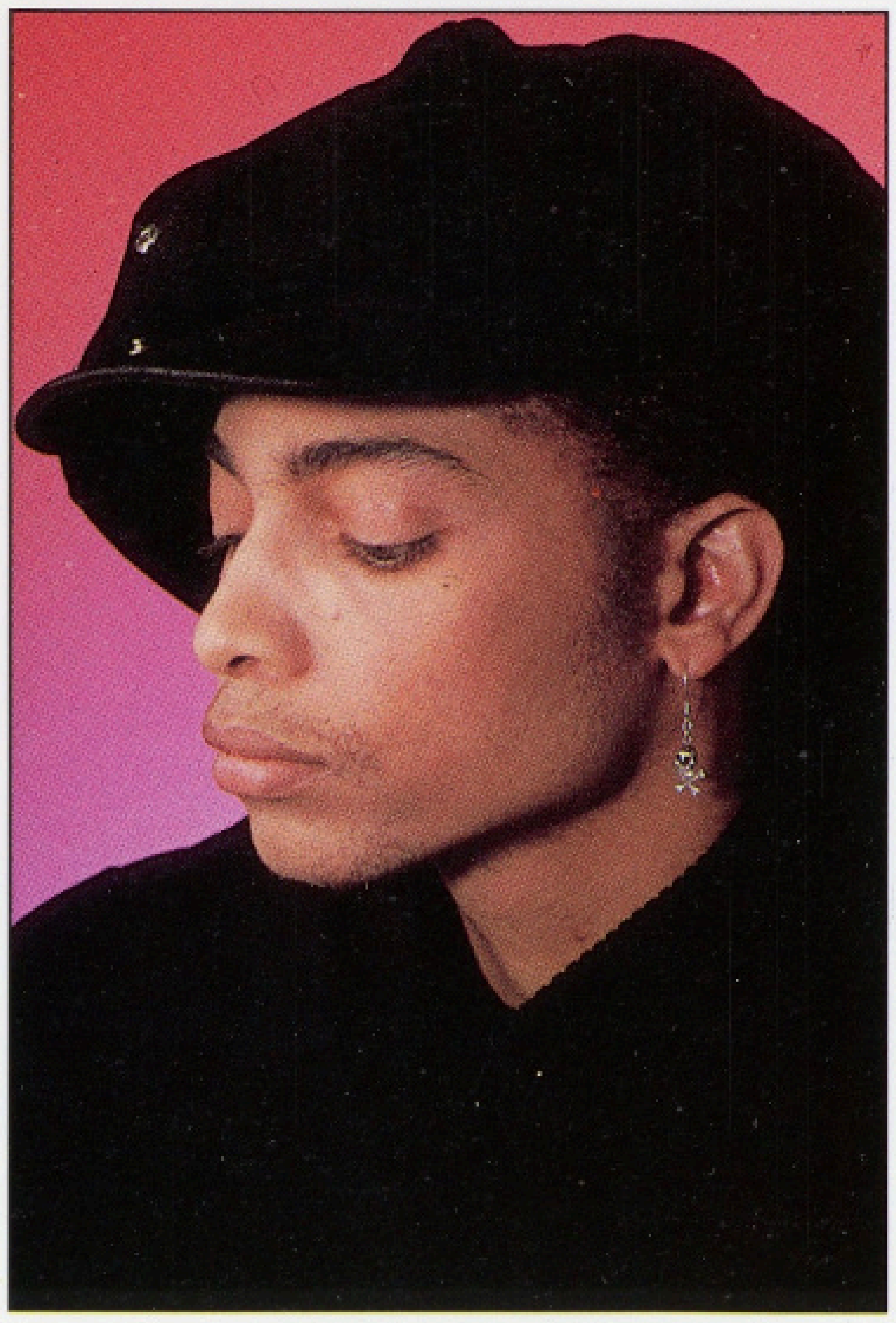
PATRICK SWAYZE

Despite being a strapping 6' 2" Texan saucepot, **Patrick Swayze** was regularly given a good clobbering by his school "chums": "Because I was a dancer everyone at school thought I was a pansy." He wasn't to be "thwarted" though and became a ballet dancer until he injured his knee whilst playing football one day and was told he would be a cripple for the rest of his life. Once again, Swizzle (as his is fondly known to his "public") soldiered on and recovered and rose to fame and glory as a member of the so-called Brat Pack in films like *The Outsiders, Red Dawn* and *Young Blood*. In 1987, at the age of 35, he caused the entire female population to swoon at his perv bottom wrigglings in *Dirty Dancing* and even made a single – "She's Like The Wind" – to boot!



TERENCE TRENT D'ARBY

Young **Terry Darby** stuck a comma in his last name to make it sound posher, claimed that he'd been dismissed from the US Army for being mentally unstable and announced to the world in 1987 that he was a genius. Surprisingly his debut LP "The Hardline According To . . ." seemed to bear out this outrageous claim. Terence – whose model girlfriend recently bore him a love child – is a devout believer in astrology and once made this prediction in *Smash Hits*: "I'm going to become mega-famous and then I'll go bonkers . . ." So far Terence's claim has not been proved wrong.



ST

Indoors or outdoors, they're highly fab to wear,
They're hip, cool and happening, it's like walking on air,
They're really quite good for putting your feet in,
Oh! Wonderful trainers you sure take some beating!
The laces are tied in a knot firm and stout,
Though house music persons prefer them without.
(Which isn't very sensible really . . .)

THEN JERICO



▲ **Then Jerico**, L-R: (back) Mark Shaw, Jasper Stainthorpe, (front) Steve Wren, Scott Taylor.

After years of trying to have a hit **Then Jerico** finally thundered into the charts in August 1987 with their single "The Motive". They are: **Mark Shaw** (born 10/6/61, who once kidnapped radio DJ David "Kid" Jensen in a desperate attempt to get some publicity for the group. **Scott Taylor** (born 31/12/61) who says, "I worked on a building site once but it nearly killed me. I'm frail of body." The nonce! **Jasper Stainthorpe** (born 18/2/58) who once worked for a central heating company. **Steve Wren** (born 26/10/62) who hated school and authority and got along badly with everyone but he says he's much better behaved now. **Rob Downes** (born 7/12/61) is the most recent recruit. He'd played guitar at their live appearances for yonks so they asked him to become a full time member last year. And, er, that's it!

TIFFANY



Tiffany Darwisch was born 10/2/1971 and by the time she was 16 she was a massive pop star. She shot to fame in America at the end of 1987 after slogging round the country singing her first hit "I Think We're Alone Now" to thousands of bemused folk in shopping malls who promptly went out to buy a copy of her single. And this unique marketing ploy worked in Britain too! Tiffany keeps up with her school studies whilst "on the road". Her drummer **Craig** is also her personal tutor (and is rumoured to be her boyfriend to boot) and she writes about all the places she visits as part of her school project. Tiffany is fond of wearing cosy jumpers, eats tons of pizza and is the nicest person in the world.



Flame-haired **Shrewsbury** rockstress **Carol Decker** used to be a barmaid and sing in an abysmal outfit called **The Lazers**. Then she went to see another equally abysmal outfit in which a geezer called **Ronnie Rogers** played his amazing guitar. She thought he was "a bit rough", her knees caved in, she went back stage for a kiss-up – and it worked! They became "as one". They decided to leave their abysmal outfits and write tunes of their own together – one of which was called "Heart And Soul". They sent it to millions of record companies and they all thought it was hopeless. It was even suggested as "suitable" for dodgy old sisterly troupe of yesteryear, The Nolans. "I mean, The Nolans!!", slavers Carol, "I nearly packed the whole thing in then..." But she didn't and finally someone thought "Heart And Soul" was quite good and two seconds later it wisked to No. 4 in America and a few months later did the same in Britain. Many tunes followed, i.e. "Valentine", "China In Your Hand" etc. and **T'Pau** became legends in their own lifetime for their gigantic hand-wringers. Carol Decker is renowned for drinking a lot and she owns a Red Setter called Jessie. "We look like each other" she once parped.



▲ Sir Carol Decker.



▲ T'Pau L-R: (back) Dean Howard, Dame Ronnie Rogers, Paul Jackson, Mike Chetwood, (front) Carol Decker, Tim Burgess.



U2 formed after Larry Mullan Jnr. put a note up at the Mount Temple High School in Dublin, looking for fellow musicians. The first rehearsal took place in Larry's parents' kitchen and the group performed ropy versions of old **Rolling Stones** tunes. Bono originally played the guitar but he wasn't much cop at that so he became the singer instead. After being called **Feedback** for a while and then **The Hype**, Bono, Larry, The Edge and Adam finally chose the name U2 and began developing their unique "passionate" style of rock 'n' roll. They've so far made 7 LPs – "Boy", "October", "War", "Under A Blood Red Sky", "The Unforgettable Fire", "The Joshua Tree" and "Rattle And Hum" – and are now one of the most successful groups in the world!

UB40

Robin and **Ali Campbell** are the sons of a famous folk singer called **Ian Campbell.** They formed UB40 in 1980 when they were both on the dole, hence the name! (Fact: a UB40 is the card you have to produce when signing on.) They now have their own record label, DEP International, and are very famous indeed as the most successful reggae band in the world. When they were poor they were quite "radical" and political but now that they're rich and famous they're not any more. Robin claims to have an unhealthy obsession with "ironing" and Ali once claimed that he was, in fact, "a pig".



▲ Wendy James and her entourage.

TRANSVISION VAMP

They "burst" upon the musical scene in the summer of 1988 with their blustering rockular anthem "I Want Your Love", fronted by the froth-haired Brighton "bombshell" **Wendy James** who immediately set upon "regaling" the entire pop universe concerning everyone from **Kim Wilde** to **Kylie** because, she said, they all used their bosoms to sell records etc. etc. and thus she became a legend of controversy. *Wendy*, on the other hand, was much more concerned with "honesty" and "integrity" and then she appeared on the cover of snoot-magazine *Tatler* with no clothes on. She once said: "My main diet is good conversation."



▲ UB40, L-R (back) Brian Travers, (second row from top) Jimmy Brown, Norman Hassan, Mickey Virtue, (third row from top) Robin Campbell, Astro, (front) Ali Campbell.

The television screen is the queerest of things,
It sits in the corner and makes a very odd din,
Like "Croiks guys! Me billabong's a dribble!"
Especially if you've got *Neighbours* on
In which case you'd best switch over sharppish and watch Officer Dibble
On *Top Cat* instead. (??)





▲ U2. L-R: Larry Mullen Jnr, The Hedge, Bono and Adam "clear off" Clayton.

• **Larry Mullen Jnr:** Born 31/10/1961, **Larry** spent his childhood collecting stamps and coins and learning the piano. He got his first drum "kit" when he was 13 – his sister **Cecilia** bought it and set it up in his bedroom while he was out. He joined a military style band called the Artane Boys Band but left after they told him to cut off his long golden locks, "my pride and joy". Larry is a fully trained black-belt in karate but he's not so keen on "martial arts" anymore. He prefers fishing and motorbikes.

• **The Edge:** Born **Dave Evans** on 8/8/1962 in Barking, London, **The Edge's** mum bought him his first guitar for £1. When he joined the Lypton Village "gang" he was called The Edge because of the shape of his head and because he was always on the fringes – rather than being at the centre – of what was going on. He was not without his "wacky" side though: he once turned up for a local radio interview to announce a special U2 "Christmas concert" in July wearing a Santa Claus outfit and eating an ice-lolly. The Edge is married – his wife is called **Aislinn** and they have two children, **Holly** and **Pearse**.

• **Bono:** Born **Paul Hewson** on 10/5/1960, Bono left his first secondary school after throwing a lump of dog pooh at his Spanish teacher and went to an "experimental school" called Mount Temple instead. Here he formed a collection of friends who pretended to live in an imaginary place called Lypton Village and all chose rather odd nicknames – his, **Bono Vox**, came from a hearing aid shop in Dublin called *Bonovox*. Bono is married to his childhood "sweetheart" Alison and lives just outside Dublin in a converted tower with a glass dome ceiling which enables Bono and Alison to stare at the stars all night.

• **Adam Clayton:** Born 13/3/1960, **Adam** is pretty much the odd one out in U2. For a start his parents are English and he spent his early childhood in Oxfordshire. But most importantly he isn't at all religious, unlike the other three. Adam was chucked out of his first school for smoking up a mountain with two girls. He wound up at Mount Temple where he was renowned for wearing an Afghan coat and (occasionally) a kilt, for sporting sunglasses come rain or shine and for drinking coffee in lessons. Adam is not much cop at driving – he once ran over a policeman and was fined and banned from driving for a spell!



VOICE OF THE BEEHIVE

In 1986 two totally bonkers sisters, Tracy Bryn and Melissa Brooke-Belland left their sunny Californian home to become pop persons in, erm, not so sunny London. Before long they had recruited three blokes (Mike Jones, Martin Brett and Woody) and were taking the charts by "storm" with their bright and breezy pop pinglers like "I Walk The Earth" and "Don't Call Me Baby" and became slightly famous for their eccentric attire and danglesome earrings.

▼ Voice of the Beehive, L-R: Tracey and Melissa.







WET WET WET



▲ Wet Wet Wet. L-R: (back) Neil Mitchell, Graeme Clarke, Tommy Cunningham, (front) Marti Pellow.

In the middle of the 1980s Glaswegian geezers called **Graeme Clarke, Neil Mitchell** and **Tommy Cunningham** decided they were quite good musicians and they could be a highly marvellous pop sensation. They scoured their chums for suitable singers, but they were all useless and so their eyes alighted on a bloke at school called **Marti Pellow** (real name **Mark McLachlan** but he changed it because it's a tacky name for a pop star), who used to stun all around him with his amazing impersonations of Michael Jackson and Boy George etc. They got him in, wrote millions of songs and – berwing! – a record company gave them lots of pounds and then nothing happened because they then spent several years in recording studios and went to America to record some tunes with a "legendary" crumbler called Willie Mitchell but no-one thought the tunes were any good. They returned and in 1987 released, "Wishing I Was Lucky"; it careered chartwards, the land lauded their genius and thousands of girlies wanted to touch Marti Pellow's bottom. Many tunes followed, "Temptation", "Angel Eyes" and a few like it, and in the autumn of 1988 those very tunes recorded in Memphis all those aeons ago were released as "The Memphis Sessions" and everyone thought they were really great (which just goes to prove that life's a circle, man).

- Marti Pellow was born in a toilet in Clydebank! He used to be a painter and decorator and says if no-one liked Wet Wet Wet anymore "I'd go back to being a painter and decorator"!
- They take themselves quite seriously, "We're serious musicians, man" Marti once quipped!
- Graeme is a brilliant sewer and used to have a girlfriend but they split up because of the "pressures" of being on the road! Blub.
- Marti used to smoke cigarettes with the filters ripped off them but he gave up because his voice is his "tool"!
- Neil suffers from hay fever and sometimes has two baths a day and is extremely small and doesn't say much, but he says, "I'm getting more confident in myself all the time."!
- Tommy has very red hair and loves his girlfriend and is very kind and doesn't believe in cruelty to butterflies: "They've a very short life – why catch them and stick pins in them??"!
- Marti doesn't reckon he's that much of a sex-god: "I don't look at myself in the mirror and think 'I'm a happening guy' – in fact sometimes I think I got a raw deal!"



KIM WILDE

Known to her friends as "Her Royal Top Ten-ness" **Kim** has been nipping in and out of the charts ever since her first single "Kids In America" rocketed to No. 2 in 1981. She was born in Hertfordshire on 8/11/60, the daughter of '50s pop star Marty Wilde. Last year saw Kim's fame reaching new heights when **Michael Jackson** asked her to be his support act on the European "leg" of his tour. More recently, Kim was rumbled when the rumoured kiss-up situation between herself and **Calvin Hayes** (from **Johnny Hates Jazz**) was found to be true!



▲ (back) Graeme, Neil, (front) Marti, Tommy

THE WEE PAPA GIRL RAPPERS

TY Tim (real name Samantha) and **Total S** (Sandra) are two sisters who started rapping when Tim's boyfriend bought a cheap drum machine. Their name comes from their dad who, for some obscure reason, used to mutter "oui papa" from time to time (i.e. "yes dad" in French). Being totally "def" rap personages, they call their mum "Mama Passion" and claim they're making records for her "so that eventually we can get her out of this council flat she's living in and make life a bit easier for her".

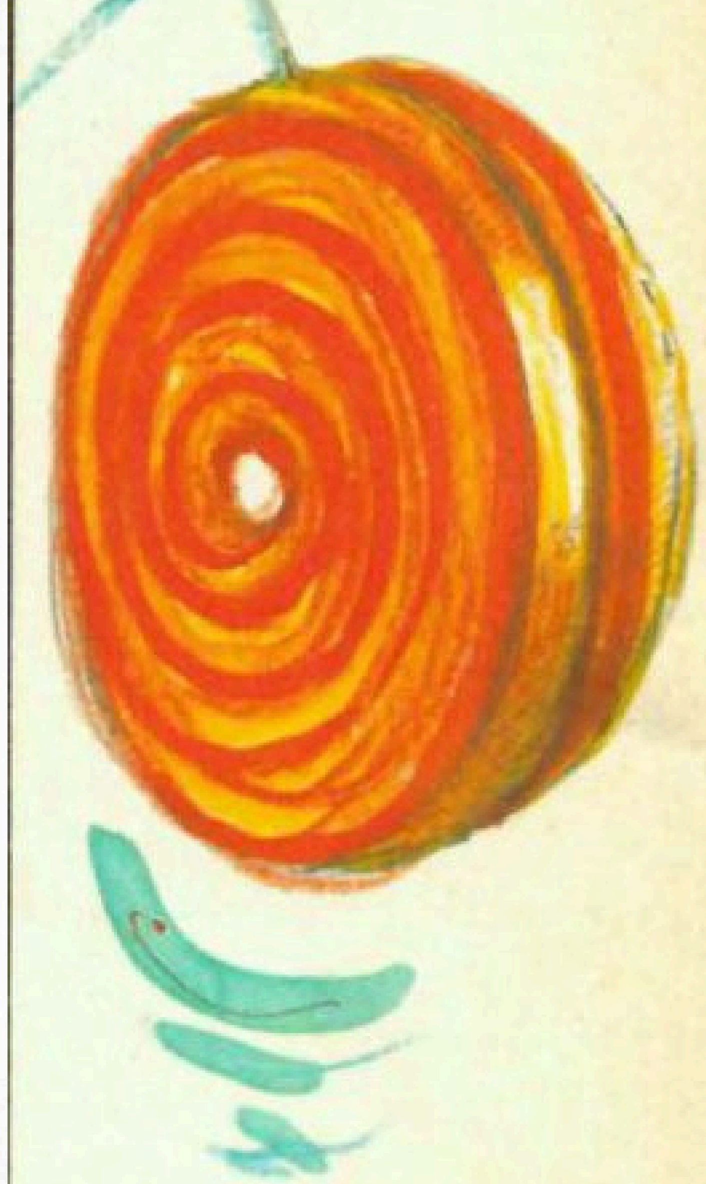


▲ **The Wee Papas**, TY Timmy and Total S

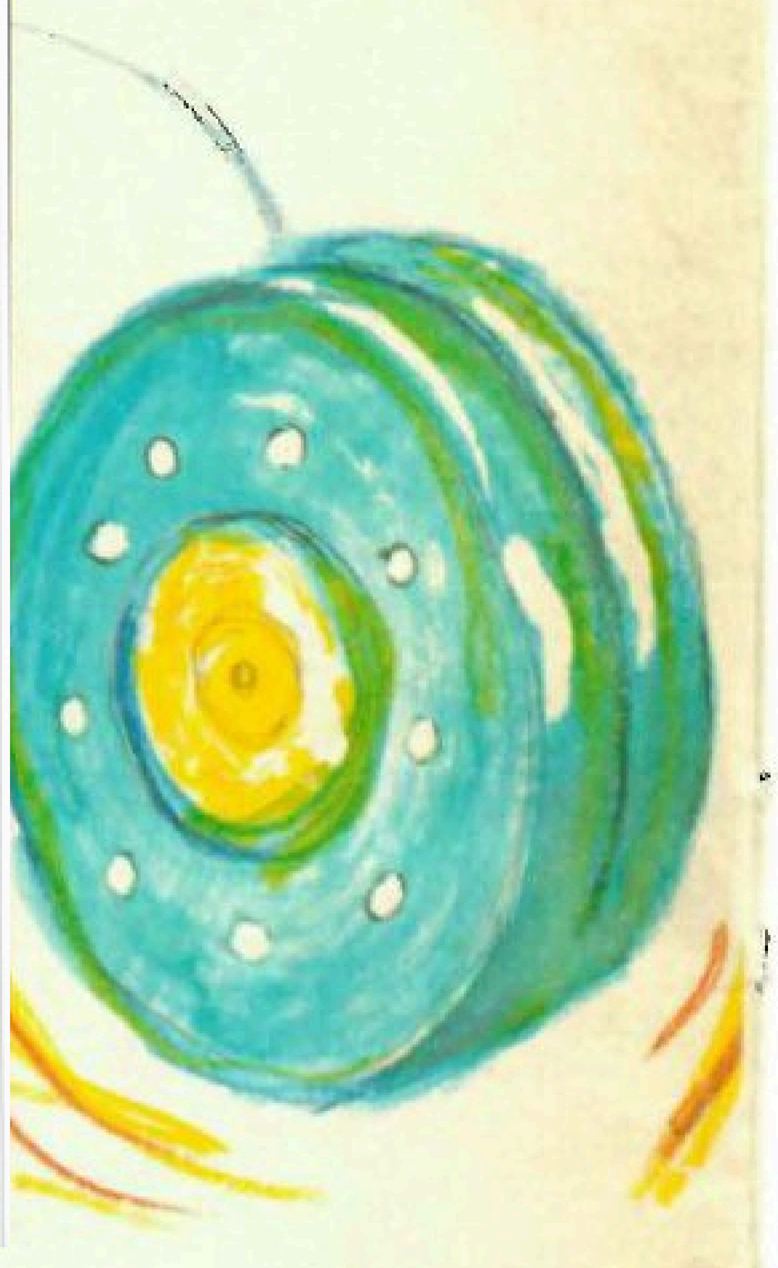
YAZZ

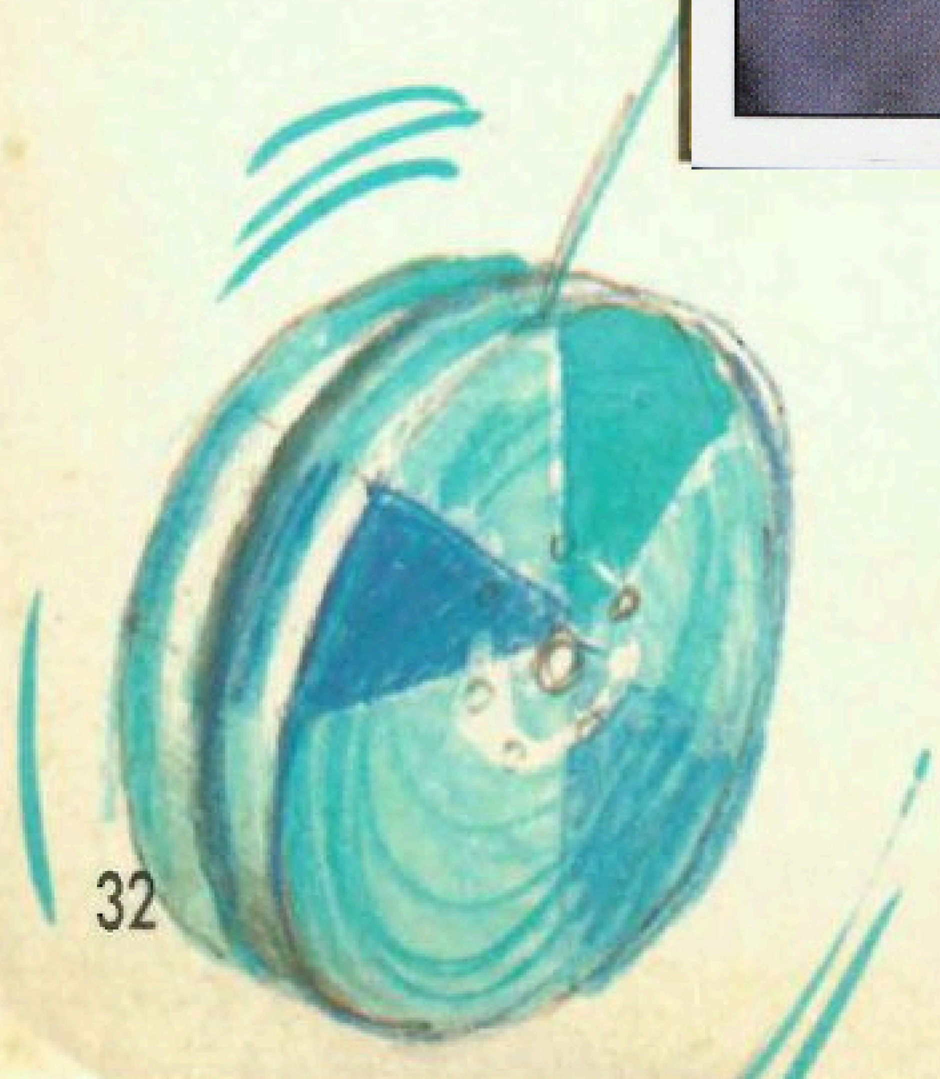
Oh! Yoyos are completely mind-blowing things,
They go down and up and then down again – Bing!
Crosby was the name of a very famous crooner,
Who was very fond of his nice blue yoyo
(Until he died on a golf course some years ago).(??)











- Her full name is **Yasmin Evans** and she was born on 19/5/60.
- When she was at school she was a "really tall, gawky, lanky kid. I had a big Affro hairstyle and wore massive flares with really high waistbands and buttons all down them and horrible shirts with wide lapels".
- Her first group was called The Biz and was really terrible.
- She used to be a "stylist" for **George Michael** and a catwalk model in Germany.
- When she was a youngster she played volleyball for the England under-19 team but they used to get beaten all the time, even by **Belgium**.
- She's married to her manager, a bloke called **Jazz Summers** who's quite old and used to manage **Wham!**
- She's got two cats called **Tamla** and **Motown** whom she thinks are psychic.
- She doesn't eat any meat or dairy products and survives on a diet of vegetables, tofu *(weird bean curd "product" that vegetarians eat quite a lot of)* and seaweed. Yum!

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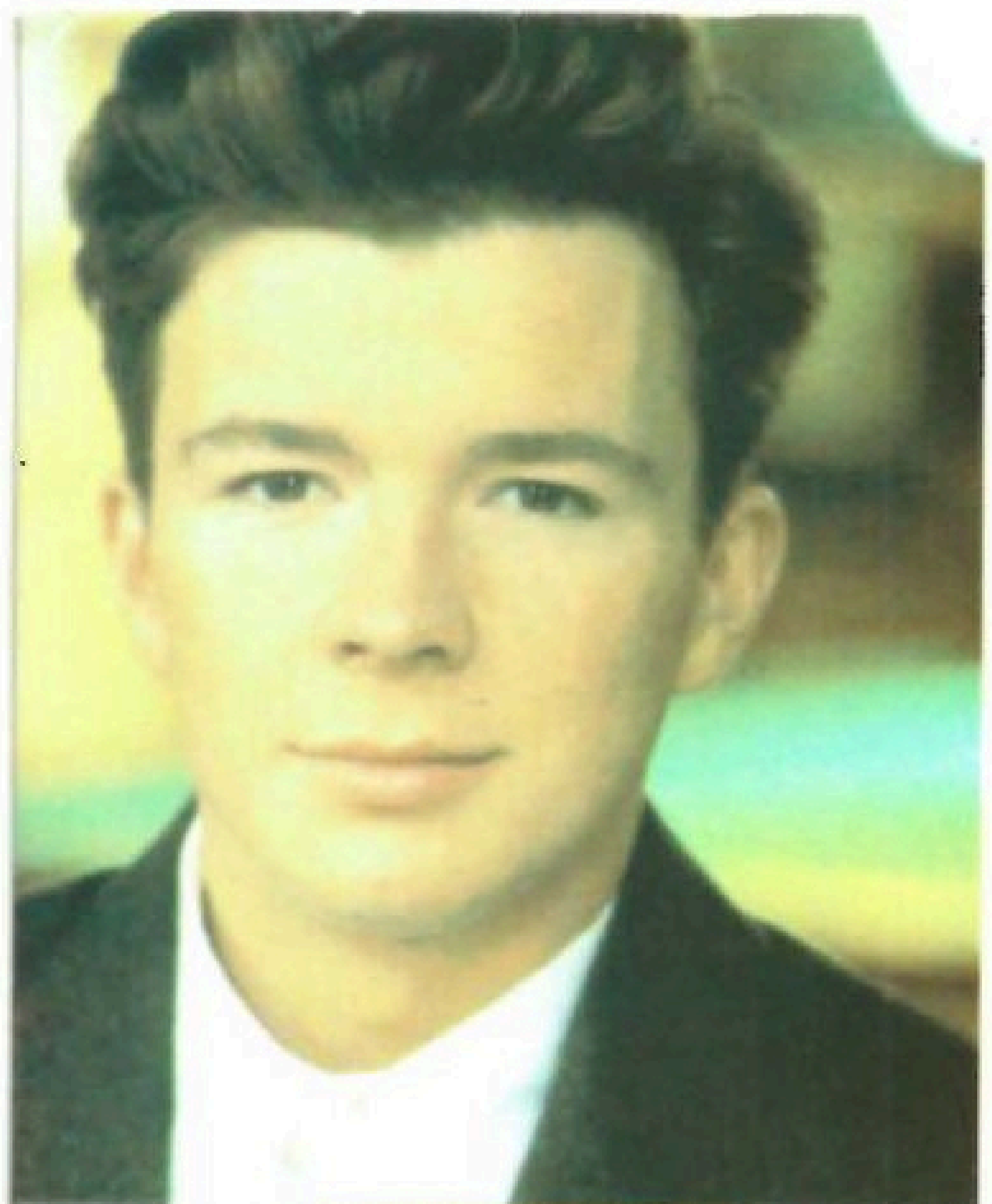
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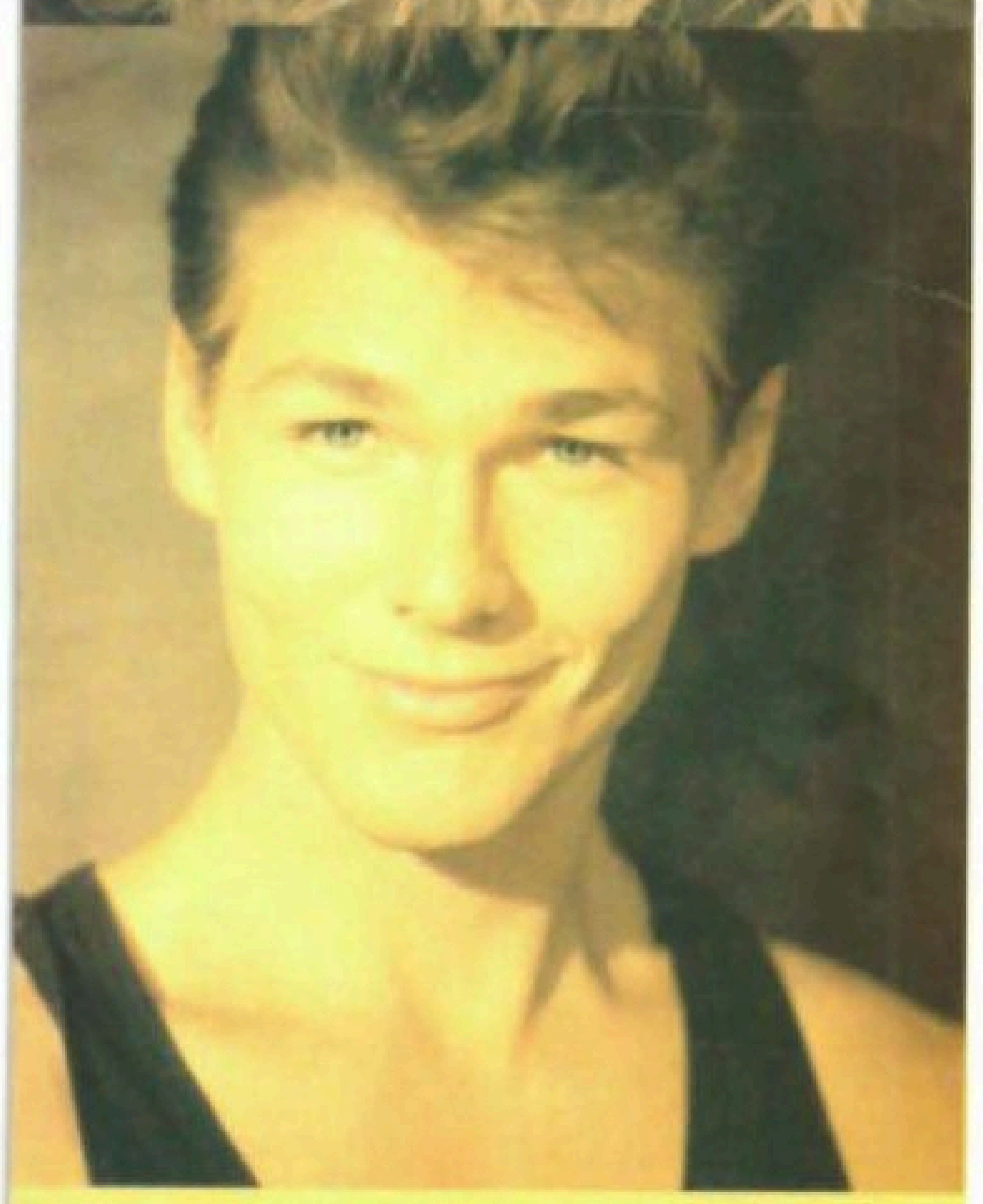
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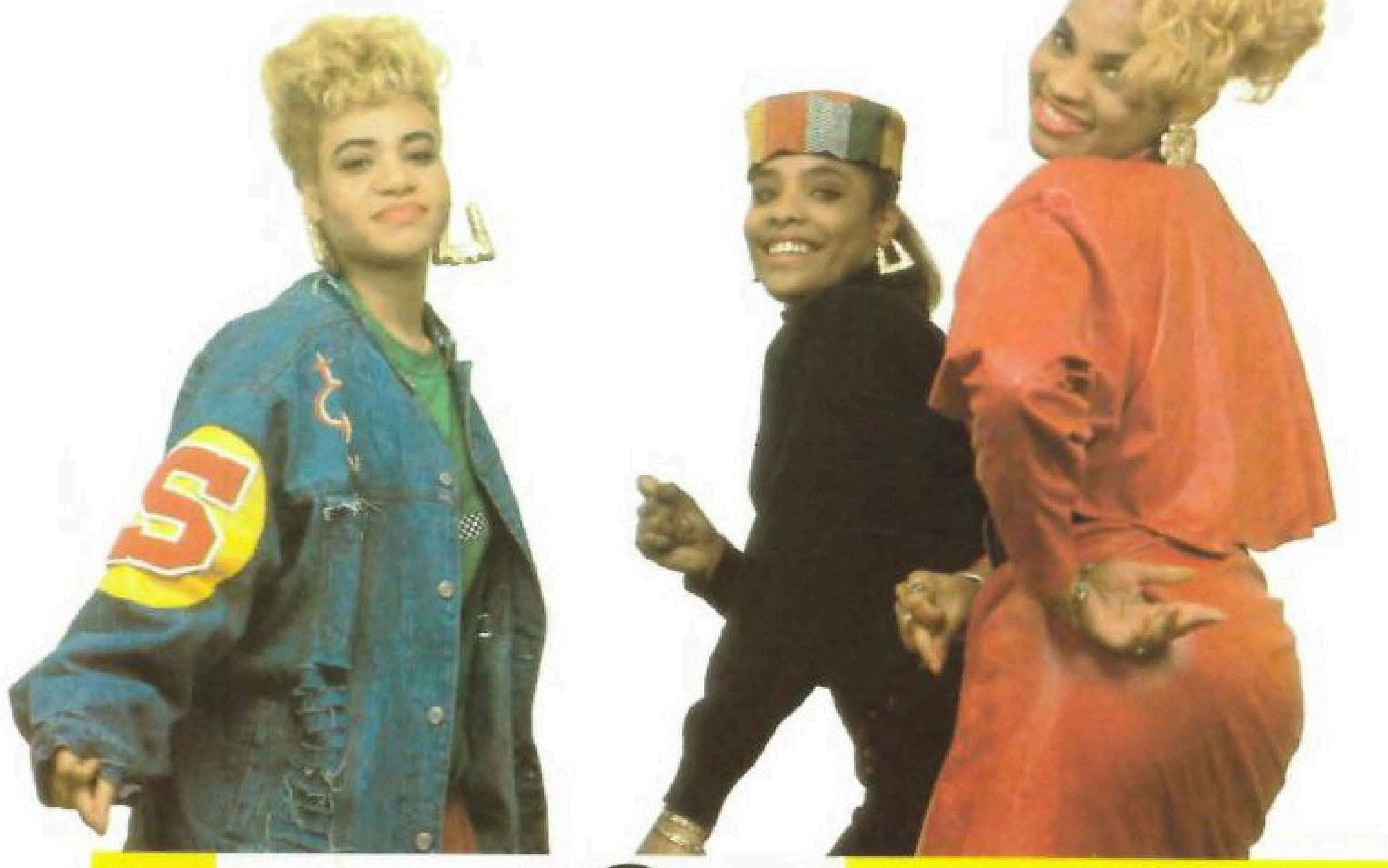
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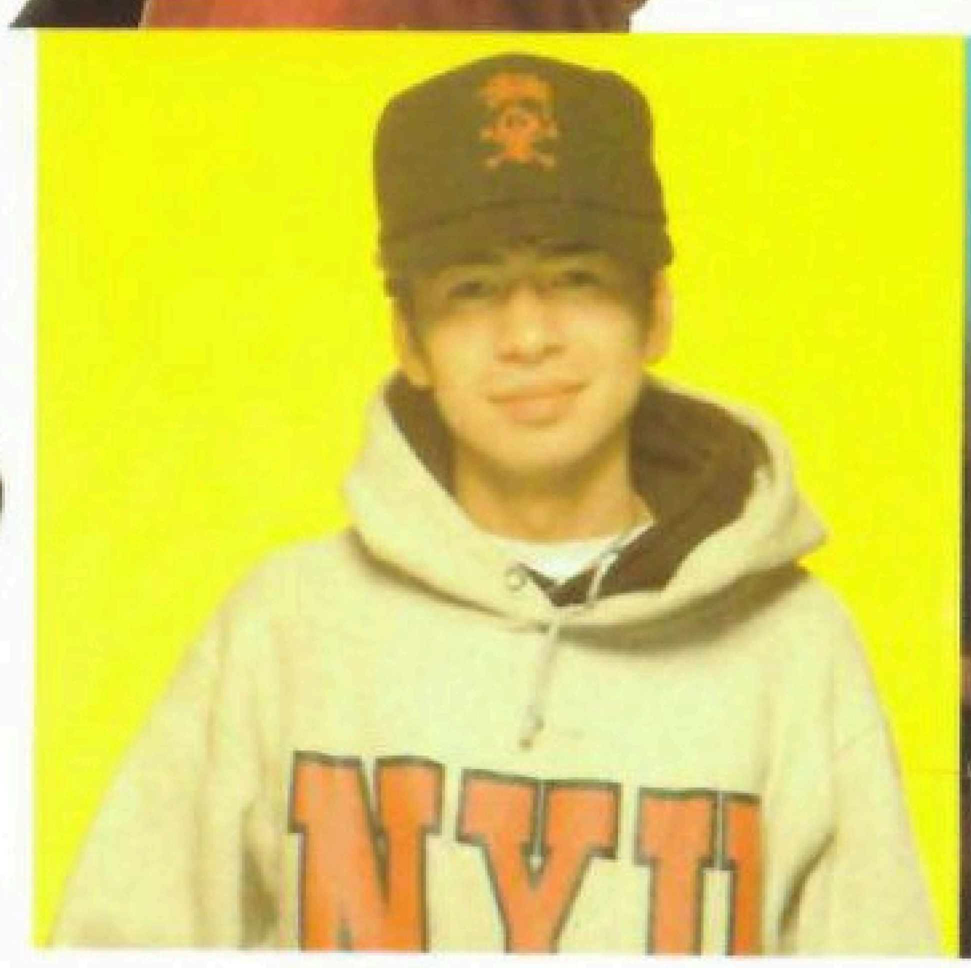














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